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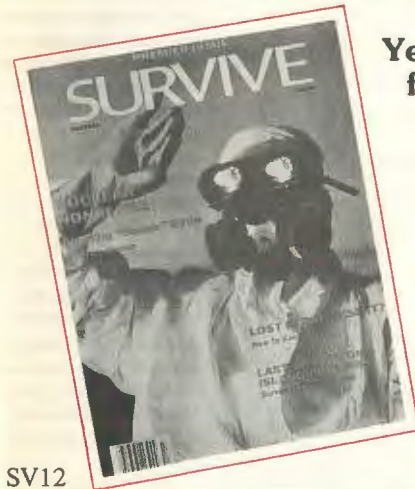
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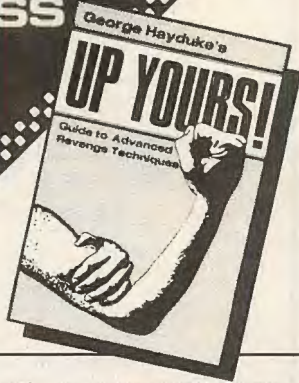


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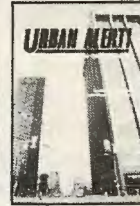
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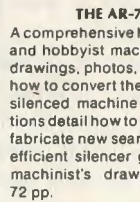
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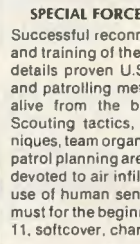
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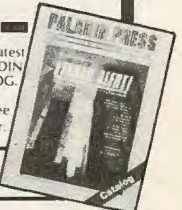
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# EDITOR'S NOTE

IT'S not going to surprise anybody that *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* approves of the National Rifle Association. The NRA may not bend over backwards for combat shooters or your suburban handgunner with an interest in self-defense, but it is certainly the most visible, most numerous, most fit-for-public-consumption gun lobby in America. At the national convention this year the NRA proved itself, again, to be an exemplary organization.

A set of special rules for the conduct of the annual members' meeting was proposed and — in the best tradition of American representative democracy — defeated. The new regulations amounted to a gag rule: no signs, no walkie-talkies, no flashcards, no literature in the meeting room ... for members. The executives of the NRA would reserve all these devices and privileges to themselves.

Restricting mass communication devices to the use of those in power would streamline meetings. Combined with the executives' call for a sergeant-at-arms (appointed by the president, not elected), the meetings would not only be streamlined; meetings would be unnecessary. NRA policy could be made behind locked doors and rubber-stamped.

Beating the gag rule declared the NRA's allegiance to democratic principle. Nobody ever doubted this important lobby's dedication to the first principles of American government, but a system as sloppy as democracy is always in the way when you're trying to get organized. The NRA has a lot of work ahead if basic American rights to self-protection and self-determination are to be preserved, and a more streamlined form of meeting and government would have helped it move rapidly and forcefully in emergencies.

Other forms of government and organization may be faster, but rule by committee and executives cannot reflect the desires of the governed as clearly and accurately. If the NRA wants to represent American small-arms owners it has to be democratic.

Combat shooters and second-amendment activists would benefit from the conservative, responsible influence of the NRA, and it's too bad that there isn't more communication between them. The NRA would benefit from those groups, too. As good as the NRA is at presenting a cleaned-up image of the gun owner to the rest of America, there is a tendency for it to represent hunters and target shooters to the exclusion of other gun interests. There is great need for one large, powerful gun-owners' organization that can represent all legitimate, responsible gun interests. The NRA doesn't do that yet.

Sensitivity and quick response to the needs and concerns of its membership has always been a part of the NRA. The best example of this has been the toll-free legislative assistance lines available to all members. These lines were there for questions, complaints and any other direct communication with the NRA — with emphasis on a fast link between the gun owner and legislators.

The toll-free lines aren't there any more. The word is that they were cut off for lack of interest. Whether it is true or not that they weren't getting many calls, it is questionable that there is any excuse for cutting off free, direct communication with NRA leadership and the legislature. The legislative assistance lines were instituted when the NRA had a small fraction of its current membership and a correspondingly small fraction of its current operating budget.

This criticism sounds like that scene in *Lawrence of Arabia* when Anthony Quinn says that Lawrence (Peter O'Toole) was "not perfect." The NRA is the most powerful, effective and responsive gun-owners' organization in America and it has made itself more American and more responsive to its membership by its active rejection of a less democratic rule. The legislative assistance line should be restored as part of the NRA's steady improvement of its representation of American gun owners.

— Bill Guthrie

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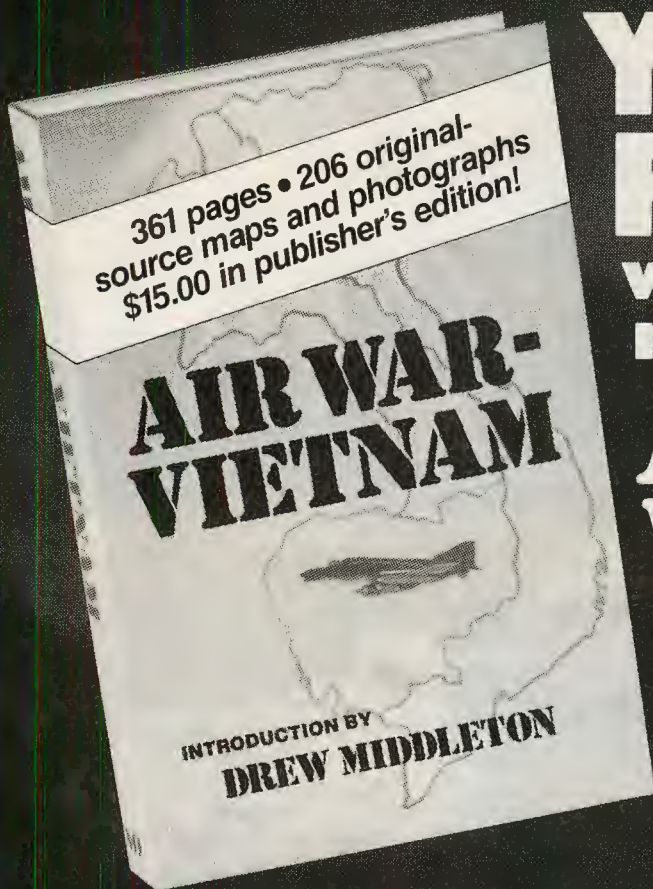
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**COVER:** U.S. Army Special Forces senior NCO holds newly adopted Squad Automatic Weapon — designated M249 Cal. 5.56mm SAW. The new weapon will be primarily deployed in U.S. Army and Marine Corps rifle squads where it will replace M16A1 AR. Soldier wears U.S. Army experimental ballistics helmet with camouflage cover. Article begins on p. 46. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

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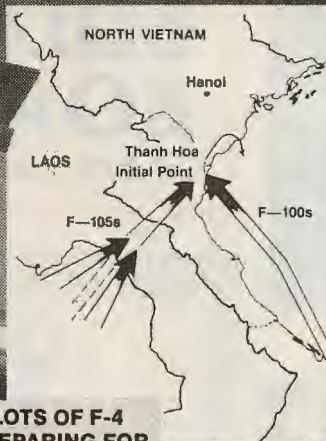
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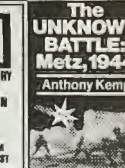
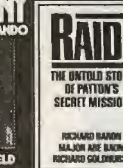
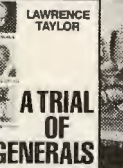
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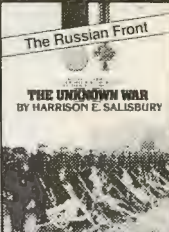
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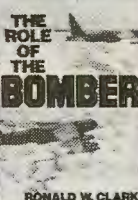
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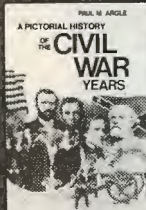
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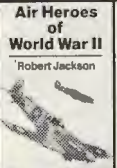
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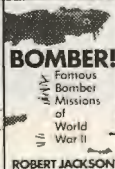
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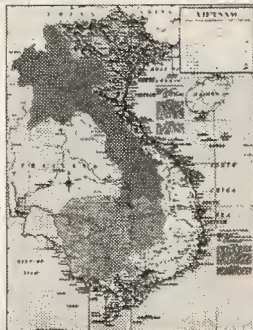
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# BULLETIN BOARD

by Bob Poos



ASA CLAY  
- COLORADO  
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## KGB TORTURE CHARGED ...

A former member of a black South African insurgent group says she was tortured and sexually abused by KGB agents while she was studying in the Soviet Union.

Nokonono Delphine Kave, 27, said her studies at a language center in Moldavia were interrupted when she was accused of being a reactionary and dragged off to a "psychiatric center" for "re-education."

"I learned at the psychiatric hospital that the 'doctors' who were questioning, torturing and sexually abusing me actually were agents of the KGB, the Soviet secret police," Kave said.

Kave left the insurgent group, the African National Congress, last year and fled to the United States. She testified recently before a Senate subcommittee on terrorism chaired by Sen. Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala.

## GUN OWNERS' PARADISE ...

In a refreshing change from Morton Grove, Ill., which has passed a law forbidding purchase or ownership of

handguns by civilians, the town of Kennesaw, Ga., has passed an ordinance *requiring* ownership of guns by citizens. However, there are no penalties and no plans by police to enforce the law.

Councilman Jerry Worthen said: "It is a kind of a protest against gun control laws. You get a little tired of hearing what you can and can't own."

## BOGUS IDs ...

SOF has, in the past, run advertisements for SOG "Get Out of Jail Free" cards. They have never been intended as anything but a joke.

Anyone trying to use them as spurious identification would do well to heed this Federal law-enforcement bulletin on bogus military identification. It states:

"The Federal Protective Service has been advised that illegal Military ID cards are in existence that meet the following description: A) 2 1/2-by-4-inch cards, printed in three colors; B) FRONT READS: 'Military Assistance Command Studies and Observation Group Counter Terrorist Activities.' Front includes name, grade, blood

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type and service number; C) BACK READS: Special identification and pass. The person who is identified by this document is acting under the direct orders of the President. Do not detain or question him. He is authorized to wear civilian clothing, carry unusual personal weapons, transport and possess prohibited items, pass into restricted areas and requisition equipment of all types including weapons. If he is killed or injured, do not remove this document from him. Alert your commanding officer immediately.

"Under no circumstances should anyone displaying one of these cards be granted access to a building. The bearer of the card should be immediately detained for violation of 18 USC 701. Any bearer of such cards may be assumed to be armed and dangerous."

### JOIN PROJECT FREEDOM . . .

Project Freedom, an independent organization seeking information and release of MIAs and POWs in Southeast Asia, is seeking to increase its

membership by 100 percent — an endeavor endorsed by SOF.

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Addresses and phone numbers are: Eastern: P.O. Box 147, Lowville, NY 13367-0147, phone (315) 376-3615 or (315) 376-3383; Western: P.O. Box 41825, Phoenix, AZ 85080, phone, (602) 978-4797 or (602) 374-9261.

### MORE MEMORIAL CONTROVERSY . . .

Yale-educated architect Maya Ying Lin whose proposed design for a Vietnam War memorial touched off a storm of controversy among veterans' groups, Congressmen and multi-millionaire H. Ross Perot, is reportedly unhappy with changes demanded in the design.

Lin, 22, whose "minimalist" design touched off the storm of objections, says she will have no comment on the matter. But she said earlier, in objecting to the changes: "It's incredible how possessive I am about the memorial . . . For the first time, I created something beyond myself."

Under the proposed changes, Lin's black marble V-shaped monument would become merely a backdrop.

In front of it would be a 23-foot

statue of a Vietnam infantryman.

Said Perot, who has donated more than \$160,000 to the project: "I have zero interest in leaving this thing to the tender mercies of the designer. She doesn't understand the war (and) she doesn't understand how the men were treated when they came home from it."

In interviews, Lin has admitted that she has read little about Vietnam.

### CONGRATULATIONS, CRAIG . . .

SOF won the Magazine & Bookseller trade magazine award for one of the best 12 national magazine covers in the month of March. The cover showed a rifleman firing Heckler and Koch's experimental G-11 caseless gun.

The cover was designed by SOF Art Director Craig Nunn and the photograph was taken by Peter G. Kokalis, SOF's military small-arms editor.

### MIA REPORTS AVAILABLE . . .

The National League of Families of Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia reports that the Defense Intelligence Agency has published a synopsis of intelligence efforts on the POW/MIA issue.

Copies of it may be obtained by writing the League at 1608 K. St. N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

A significant paragraph of the statement declares:

"What remains to condition our [DIA's] thinking and motivate our efforts is the 'weight of evidence' theory: The conviction that the many reports, the known perfidiousness of the communist governments in Southeast Asia, the logic that implies some of the many missing must have survived, all suggest that Americans may be alive in communist-controlled Southeast Asia."

### WARNING FROM SOF . . .

It has come to the attention of editors of this magazine that a number of organizations have been using the name *Soldier of Fortune* in efforts to recruit people.

*Soldier of Fortune* Magazine is not an organization. We do not support or endorse any organization and to use our name without our express written permission is a violation of the law.

We will prosecute such infringements of our legal rights to the fullest extent of the law.

### ANTI-TERRORIST STRIKE FORCE . . .

A Pentagon spokesman says the United States has formed, trained and

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Continued on page 78



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SULLIVAN

## NICARAGUAN FREEDOM ...

Sirs:

Please accept this meager gift of medical supplies for the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters Fund. I have a special place in my heart for the people of Central America. I served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) in Torreon, Mexico, in 1976 and 1977. I have many friends who spent their two years in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. I pray each day for the brave men in Nicaragua who so desperately need our help in defeating the communist, terrorist aggressors. I hope to be able to make a substantial donation of web gear and fatigues in the near future.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Christopher N. White,  
President  
Future Survival Association  
Crofton, Maryland

*Mr. White's thanks are entirely misplaced. SOF and the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters should and do thank him. For our readers, it is important that we correct the mistaken impression White gives by his modesty. He sent a large box of medical supplies of immeasurable value in Nicaragua. — The Eds.*

## REFUELING REVISITED ...

Sirs:

"Marine In-Flight Refueling" (SOF, May '82) was quite good, but there was one piece of faulty information. I base my correction on my having been a crew chief on SAC KC 135 A tankers with 2nd OMS, 2nd Bomb Wing, Barksdale AFB, La., for 5½ years.

Marv Wolf made a mistake when he said that one service cannot refuel another service's craft. Unfortunately, I cannot remember the designation numbers for the extending receiver boom and drogue off-load nozzle that made it possible for us to refuel Navy and Marine aircraft, but we did it many times.

After being notified of the type of craft we would be refueling, the shop would mount the proper drogue on the proper refueling boom. Once the drogue was mounted, the pilot of the craft to be refueled had to fly his receiver boom into the drogue instead of the tanker operator flying the boom into the receiver's fueling receptacle as we did on Air Force craft.

Hope to see you at the next convention.

Sincerely yours,  
Rick Holbert  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Continued on page 90

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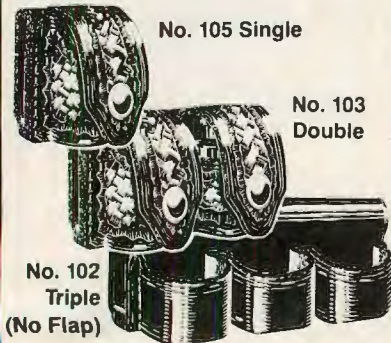
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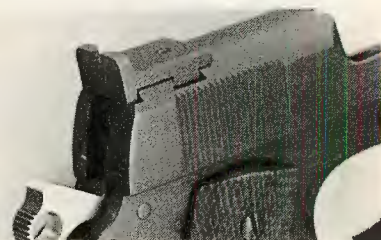
By Ken Hackathorn



AS the 1911 pistol has been used increasingly for practical and defensive application over the last few years, the need for better sights has become critical. All of the popular adjustable pistol sights have been adapted for .45 auto use. Most users prefer a high fixed-sight system. All the currently available combat-style sights are a great improvement over the little hump-and-bump stock Colt-pistol sights.

A new set of these sights is marketed by pistolsmith Richard Heinie, Dept. SOF, 821 E. Adams, Havana, IL 62644. These sights provide a clear sight picture and are extremely rugged. The installation of Heinie's sights requires machining of the pistol's slide. I think the Heinie sights are the answer not only for IPSC competition but also for police and military use. Each set comes with a modified-ramp front sight. Price is \$28.50 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling. Heinie will install these sights on the customer's .45 auto or P-35 Browning for a total price of \$55.

Now we find ourselves being flooded by a deluge of "gadget guns": custom pistols designed to give the top competition shooters every edge in fast shooting and quick recovery. The Clark Pin-Gun, Devel Gammon, Wilson Accu-Comp, Plaxco Compensator and others share features such as extended barrels with vents, ports, weights and vector compensators. These weapons manufacturers are testing every imaginable engineering approach.



**Rugged, simple and non-reflective, the high-profile Heinie sight is dove-tailed and allen-bolted into Colt Government slide. Photo: Ken Hackathorn**

THE quest for superior shooting skills in the art of practical pistol shooting has caused some interesting innovations. From the earliest days of IPSC formation, great effort was made to equate the word "practical" with realism.

Initial problems included proper ammunition, holsters and weapons. One of the first concepts outlined by IPSC was the requirement that all pistol ammunition be equal to duty loads. Shooting light-loaded, mid-range ammo violated combat realism. If practical shooting were to be indeed realistic, cartridges fired in contests had to equal those used for self-defense. Jeff Cooper went a step further and introduced "power-factoring." This rewards cartridges and loadings of greater power with higher scores. Even if some people disagreed with his ballistics, most agreed with the principle that the man firing a harder-recoiling weapon should be rewarded.

The second area of concern for IPSC was the widespread use of holsters that were anything but practical. They were designed for use in pistol matches but they were so uncomfortable that they were worn only during the actual firing strings. To wear one for everyday use was impractical and rarely done. IPSC President Jeff Cooper set out to write a fair, uniform holster rule that would make the competition holster resemble working ones. This rule is now part of the enforced shooting requirements in all IPSC matches.

Each design is interesting in its own way, but only an expert competitive shooter can notice any improvement. Nevertheless, what the big boys have, the masses rush to buy — and this makes the pistolsmiths rich.

In the hands of a Shaw, Fowler, Walters, Plaxco or Seyfried, these gadget guns are impressive. They do exactly what they were designed to do: win matches. However, I know nobody who actually carries one for everyday defensive use. I don't believe anyone considers them defensive sidearms. They are fancy paper punches.

Now a new fad has reared its ugly head: optical sights. The Aimpoint is the most popular; some competitors claim that these sights give them a match-winning edge.

Let's remember we are still practical shooters. Back at the beginning, we used to give the PPC revolver shooters hell for using powder-puff loads, phony holsters and — most of all — those outrageous bull-barreled revolvers with exotic ribs and all sorts of attached gadgets. How could they have the impertinence to call themselves "combat" shooters when they were just playing a game, target shooting with impractical tools.

I'm afraid the next time someone brings up the subject of PPC guns and the lack of practical rationale, I'll have to keep my mouth shut. ☒

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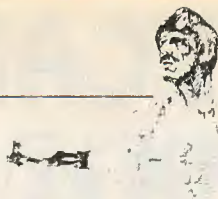
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**UNIFORMS OF THE ELITE FORCES.** By Leroy Thompson and Michael Chappell. Blandford Press Ltd., Link House, West Street, Poole, Dorset, U.K. 1982. 160 pp. Illustrated. \$8.95. Review by Madro Bandaries.

**T**HIS book is a fine addition to Blandford's current military library. Long associated with military publications, Blandford Press is noted for its attention to detail and its fine art work. Completed on the same scale as their recent *Army Uniforms Since 1945*, the book concerns itself with the uniforms of elite units since WWII. With extraordinary attention to detail and comments on military history, **Uniforms of the Elite Forces** will make an excellent addition to one's library.

Well-known units such as the British SAS and the U.S. Rangers and Special Forces are given special attention as are the elite units of smaller countries. The superior illustrations of Michael Chappell are worth the price of the book alone. The authoritative text by Leroy Thompson is well-written. This American military historian is also an SOF author and his book reviews have appeared on this page in past issues. Thompson's **Uniforms of the Elite Forces** is a required book for all military bookshelves.

**THE PRESIDIO CONCISE GUIDE TO MILITARY AIRCRAFT OF THE WORLD.** Editor: Chris Chant. Novato, Calif.: Presidio Press. 1981. 224 pp. 500 illustrations. \$17.95. Review by John Metzger.

**C**HRISS Chant, an experienced aviation writer and editor, has put together a handbook covering 180 major military aircraft in service today.

Each entry chronicles aircraft history with notes on manufacture and intended mission followed by a list of specifications. Chant has uncovered some interesting anecdotes and gives a short description of the concepts and ideas that went into the development of each aircraft.

Excellent color illustrations and some photographs accompany each plane and helicopter. The illustrations are accurate and show details of camouflage and markings from different countries.

**The Concise Guide to Military Aircraft of the World** is an easy-to-understand guide to modern aircraft identification, and will make a handsome addition to any military book collection.

**THE PRESIDIO CONCISE GUIDE TO SOVIET MILITARY AIRCRAFT.** By Bill Sweetman. Novato, Calif.: Presidio Press. 1981. 206 pp. Illustrated. \$17.95. Review by John Metzger.

**T**HE *Presidio Concise Guide to Soviet Military Aircraft* by Bill Sweetman is in the same format as Chris Chant's *Concise Guide to Military Aircraft of the*

Leroy Thompson — Michael Chappell

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World. Sweetman goes a bit further, however, in his introduction, which deals with Soviet air-defense policy as it relates to aircraft manufacture, mission and history.

Also included is a section on Soviet military-aircraft exports with ComBloc air force insignia.

Sweetman's book relies more on photographs than Chant's, and some shots are one-of-a-kind. This handbook is an up-to-date account of all known Soviet military aircraft, and complements the *Presidio Concise Guide to Military Aircraft of the World*.

**A PICTORIAL GUIDE TO THE MILITARY MUSEUMS, FORTS, AND HISTORIC SITES OF THE UNITED STATES.** By Lt. Col. James B. Sweeney (USAF-Ret.). Crown Publishers Inc., One Park Ave., New York, NY 10016. 1981. 320 pp. Illustrated with 550 photographs, diagrams and maps. \$19.95. Review by John Metzger.

**T**HIS comprehensive illustrated directory of more than 300 military museums, forts and historic sites in the United States is divided into sections on land, sea, air and overseas, and covers all branches of the armed forces. Using an alphabetical listing by state, **A Pictorial Guide** briefly describes major forts, museums and battlesites, including costs (if any), hours open, address, curator, history, how to get there and what one can see and do.

Each entry includes at least one picture. All photos are black and white and not of the best quality, but the book serves its purpose. For museum and history buffs, this volume will make a good travel reference for extended cross-country road trips.

**SEMPER FIDELIS: The History of the United States Marine Corps.** By Allan R. Millett. New York: Macmillan. 1981. 26 photos and maps, 782 pp. \$29.95. Review by William Brooks.

**L**T. Col. Allan R. Millett, USMCR, distinguished historian, has succeeded in producing a single-volume definitive history of the United States Marine Corps — a mission which was not accomplished by Brig. Gen. Edwin Simmons, USMC retired, in his work, *The United States Marines: The First Two Hundred Years 1775-1975* (Viking, 1976). Although Col. Millett has used many of Gen. Simmons's sources, he has presented an original, comprehensive, readable account.

The author deals with the growth of the Marine Corps from an organization of ships' guards into a modern, multi-functional, air-land-sea ready force.

Col. Millett divides Marine Corps development into four phases: first, 1775 to the 20th century, when Marines guarded ships and Naval yards and stores; second, the period following the Philippine insur-

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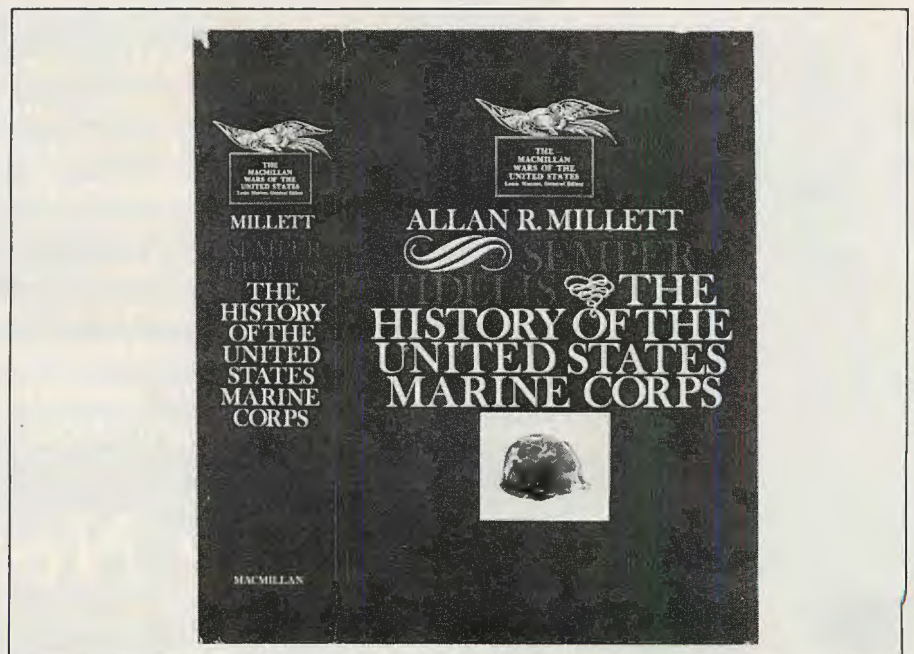
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rection to 1941, which saw the Marines used as colonial infantry; third, the years spent developing amphibious capabilities and applying them, sometimes with disastrous results in the Pacific campaigns of WWII; and fourth, the current phase which has brought the Corps recognition as a rapid deployment force in readiness.

**Semper Fidelis** is not an official history of the Corps; therefore, events are not recounted entirely from the Corps' point of

view (for instance, the less-than-gallant performance at Ft. Fisher in 1865). The author does, however, promote loyalty, support and sympathy for one of the world's foremost military units. **Semper Fidelis** is a well-told story, using Marine Corps *argotique* and military terminology. Written with drama and color, **Semper Fidelis** will be appreciated by civilians and Marines alike. This book is long overdue for the military historian. ✕





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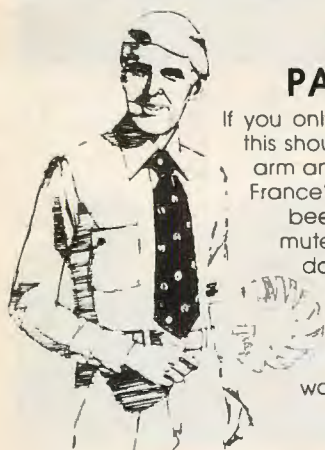


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# I WAS THERE

by George L. Hook, Jr.  
as told to M.L. Jones

*George L. Hook, Jr., describes himself as "a survivor of the Southeast Asia war games." This former 3rd Force Recon Marine's quick reactions helped him as a civilian one dark night in October 1977. As he tells it:*

**T**HE sound of breaking glass jarred me awake. Was I dreaming? Although my wife slept undisturbed beside me, it had been too real for a dream. Perhaps it was a response learned after months in the jungles of Southeast Asia, but I decided to investigate.

From the bedroom closet I picked up my .30-caliber M1 carbine (although many people dislike this weapon, I always carried it when I hunted coyote and deer

— and I always scored). I inserted a loaded clip into the magazine well, jacked a round into the chamber and stepped into the hall.

My house is a simple two-story building with a family room/rec room in the basement and the bedrooms on the second floor. Our two sons, then aged 3 and 4, slept next to the master bedroom. I decided to look in on them first. I opened the door — one of the boys was not in his bed. Relieved, I returned the carbine to the closet and started downstairs to find my errant son (I later found him on the floor behind his bed, sound asleep).

Not finding him on the first floor, I walked downstairs to the basement and flicked on the family-room light. Broken glass from a window littered the floor, and 10 feet from me stood a man.

He pulled a gun from behind his back and shouted, "Motherfucker, this is a stick-up!"

As I look back, I marvel at how fast my mind raced at that moment as the adrenalin pumped through my body. Suddenly, it was back to the rice paddies and total war. I distinctly remember hearing gunfire (although no shots were fired). I had been out of the service for nine years, but my lessons as a Force Recon Marine paid off — again.

I don't remember covering the distance between us, but I jammed the burglar's gun into his face with a well-placed for-

ward jump-kick (*mae geri*). Its impact opened a deep wound across the bridge of his nose. It was no quarter — strikes to the head and groin — but my only thought was to get that goddamn gun.

In seconds it was over. One would-be burglar, down and bleeding. His weapon (a Ruger Blackhawk .44) in *my* hand. The police on the way. War is war, whether it's in the jungle or in your home. In every case, give no quarter. ☒

# IT HAPPENED TO ME

by Col. Elswick Newport  
as told to M.L. Jones

*During the Korean "Police Action," then Capt. Elswick Newport was Commanding Officer (CO) of a helicopter detachment supporting a M.A.S.H. just behind the lines, about 12 miles south of the "Punch Bowl."*



Capt. Newport (right) reports in at battle-line M.A.S.H. during Korean War. Photo: Elswick Newport



Worried, harried, hurried frontline medics load H-13D with American wounded. Korea, 21 July 1952. Photo: Elswick Newport

**J**UST before dawn one morning in April of 1953, we got a call to medevac a South Korean soldier with a head wound from a position up north. I was an aviator as well as CO, so I took my turn like the rest of the pilots in making pick-ups. It was my call that night and I headed out.

Flying an H-13D, I got to the pick-up

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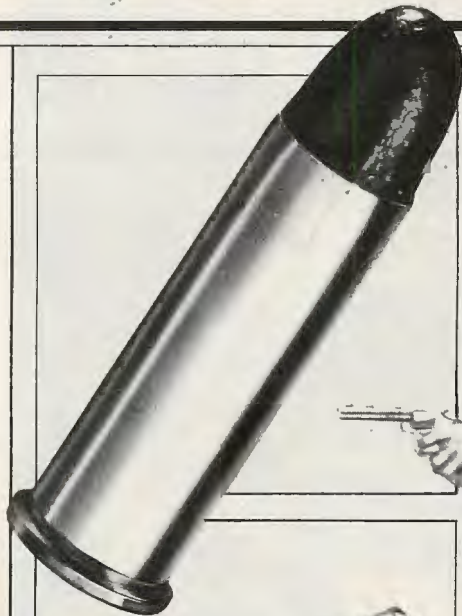


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point just after daylight. The landing pad was a ledge scraped out of the side of the mountain, but then, they usually were.

After setting down the blades swung in down pitch over the heads of two South Korean medics who rushed up with the stretcher. They began to secure it after removing the empty one already on the right litter rack. As they did this I got out and started putting my sandbag on the left litter to balance the wounded man's weight.

That was when it happened. After strapping the soldier in, the medics started to walk away uphill. The one who was carrying the stretchers — he couldn't have been more than 19 — put the stretcher up on end. There was an earsplitting crash as one of the still rotating wood and metal blades swung round and struck it, sending pieces of both through the air.

The damaged 'copter then began making wild leaping gyrations. Fearing that both it and the patient would go off the pad and down the mountain I quickly reached inside and switched off the engine.

Well, I had been in Korea for more than 13 months, flown more than 1,000 missions, and was crazy. I decided to kill the medic for what he did and drew my Chief Special. In order to get a better shot at him I took two steps away from the wreck ... and the world exploded.

What was left of the rotor blades were still swinging and I was struck in the back of the head by one. I was knocked 20 feet up the mountain by the blow. By some miracle I was not seriously injured — we didn't have helmets in those days — but lost all interest in the medic.

Later that day I got another 'copter, at another pad, and flew the still unconscious patient to the M.A.S.H.

A few days later, a South Korean general came by to apologize for the incident and asked if we would continue to pick up his wounded. I told him, "Of course we will."

Later, I heard that they executed the aid man. ☒

**I**f you have a combat or adventure story for "It Happened to Me" or "I Was There," triple-space type it and send it to SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, Attn: M.L. Jones. All stories should be 500 words or less. Upon publication, SOF will become owner of all publication rights. Submitted articles are subject to editing and revision, although their content and theme will not be changed.

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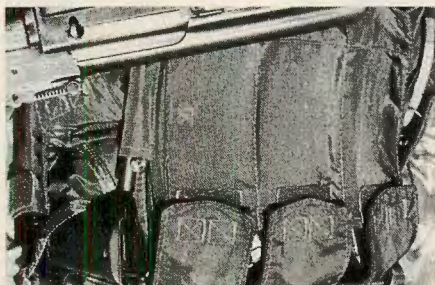


# FULL AUTO

## Odds & End Wipes



by Peter G. Kokalis



South African army chest webbing as issued to special-operations units. Note North Korean selector-lever markings on captured AK-47. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

**S**OUTH African Chest Webbing: I recently acquired — from a friend who served three years with the Rhodesian security forces and one year in the South African defense force — the most useful,

well-designed piece of chest webbing to come down the pike in a long time. Issued to S.A. special-operations units only, it has been fabricated from nylon in typical South African army chocolate-brown.

Its 12 pockets feature velcro-fastened flaps and hold two grenades, six 30-round R4 (South African version of the Israeli Galil in 5.56mm NATO) or Kalashnikov magazines, a small flare projector, first-aid kit, and a Star 9mm pistol with extra magazine. The pistol pocket will accommodate any number of pistols besides the Star, including the M1911A1.

Ammunition chest pouches which incorporate a pistol compartment have never been common. A few were made of leather by the Chinese and Afghans in the early 1900s.

The American military has made little use of chest webbing. An 11-pocket canvas fragmentation-grenade carrier was manufactured for the U.S. Army between 1918-1919, intended for use during the great offensive of 1919 — which of course never occurred. Worn around the neck like an apron, it had two ties for the waist and chest.

Like Mexican bandits, Americans have always been enamored of bandoliers, such as those issued for use with the Springfield rifle during the span 1913 - 1936. Without regard for tidy battlefields, the U.S. disposable-bandolier concept extends from the Vietnam War back to the throw-away bandoliers used in 1900 with the .30/40 Krag rifle.



New Uzi SMG SWAT case, constructed of rugged, heavy-duty canvas. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

**U**ZI Gun Cases: Action Arms Ltd. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 9573, Philadelphia, PA 19124) is now distributing two gun cases, made exclusively for them by Kolpin, for the Uzi SMG and semiautomatic carbine. I recommend them highly. Both are constructed of rugged, heavy-duty, midnight-blue padded canvas with a large gold Uzi logo.

The SMG SWAT case, which is the one I own, contains a separate sleeve for the 16.1-inch semiauto barrel and an exterior pocket for three 25- or 32-round magazines. The other case is longer and made specifically for the semiauto carbine. In addition to three magazines, it will also hold the front-sight-adjustment tool and the magazine-loading tool. Both the Uzi SWAT case and the semiauto carbine case cost \$34.50 apiece.

**D**OC Dater (Automatic Weapons Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1731, Socorro, NM 87801 — see "Doc Dater's Deadly Devices," SOF, November '81) has introduced a replacement end cap for the MAC/Sionics/RPB Ingram suppressors which has neither rubber nor replaceable parts. The rubber washers on the original MAC-suppressor end caps quickly become ragged enough to deflect the bullet in flight, an adversity which has plagued MAC-suppressor owners.

Dater's MAC-END™, as it is called, solves this problem once and for all. The MAC-END™ has no parts to wear out and will last the lifetime of the suppressor without maintenance. Replacement of the original end-wipe assembly with the MAC-END™ does not decrease the efficiency of the original suppressor. The MAC-END™ has a flow-reversing surface machined on its interior which converts the far end of the suppressor into a highly efficient exit chamber, similar to that found on the excellent suppressed Patchett/Sterling Mk5 SMG (L34A1). There is even a very slight reduction of 0.4 dB in the sound level.

Dater is producing two versions of the MAC-END™. The M10 version will fit either the M10 or M11 suppressor, while the M11 unit operates only on the M11. Installation is simply a matter of unscrewing the original wipe assembly and screwing in the MAC-END™. The price is \$19.95 postpaid in the United States. There are no shipping restrictions worldwide. ✕

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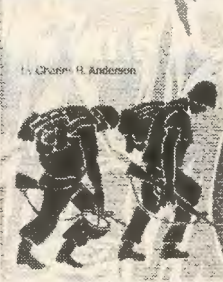
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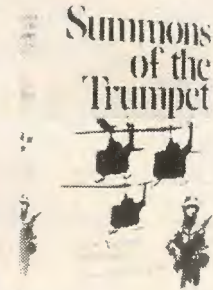
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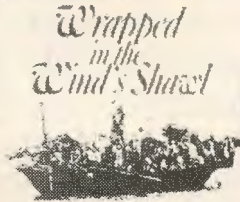
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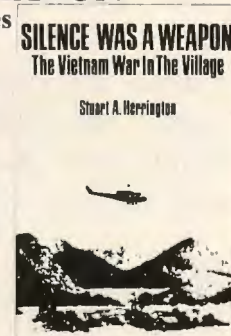
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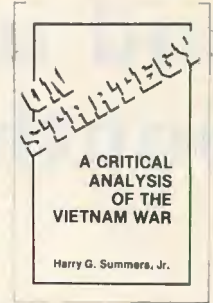
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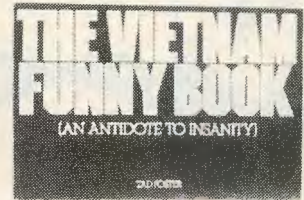
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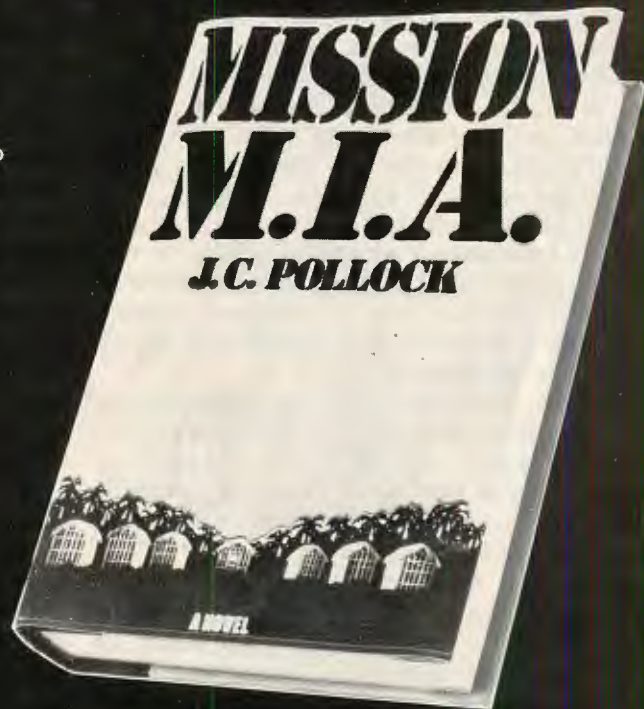
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# Fighting Fools, Thinking Cowards

by James Bond Stockdale

*The nation that will insist on drawing a broad line of demarcation between the fighting man and the thinking man is liable to find its fighting done by fools and its thinking done by cowards.*

— Sir William Francis Butler

**W**ITH the advent of the All Volunteer Force, the armed services entered into a high-rolling game of barter and exchange for the cream of this nation's youth, banking on the supposition that they could compete with the civilian job market in attracting and retaining the highest-caliber talent.

However, with the military recruitment process now underpinned by a marketplace ethic, the true meaning of service somehow got left out of the equation.

That a program that relies on enticements such as choice of duty station, delayed entry, the promise of specialized training, educational credits and higher salaries should automatically accrue those drives that have kept this nation for the past 200 years, namely "duty, honor and country," has never tracked.

The businesslike style of our recruiting has affected the outlook and perspective of both potential recruits and those already serving; for many, time in the armed services is simply another job. The Madison Avenue mentality is aiming us toward that bifurcated society of fighting fools and thinking cowards.

Yet history has shown that mercenaries do not win wars or maintain deterrence: People committed to their country and bound by a common duty do. An injection of the non-quantifiable factors that encourage people to serve in the military is overdue, regardless of the future of the All Volunteer Force.

Why won't Uncle Sam's enticement system work? Because the application of rational business concepts to the profession of arms runs contrary to the nature of war; rejects the strong probability of future war; ignores the fact that people, not machines or computers, will win future wars; and disregards the historic promise of freedom on which this nation was founded.

Adapting the business approach to the military profession has serious drawbacks — too many in uniform have caught the trendy habit of looking out for No. 1, of asking, "What's in it for me?" This type of self-centered careerism may be *de rigueur* on Wall Street but is the antithesis of the service ethic.

**W**AR is a unique human enterprise that cannot be managed on the margin the way bureaucrats haggle over budget apportionments. The fact that all but 268 years in the past 4,000 have seen this planet enduring the blight of war is a grim reminder that Vietnam

was not an inoculation that would free us from future conflicts any more than was the "war to end all wars" more than a temporary placebo.

Despite the "Star Wars" technology of our weapons systems, the next war will be won by people. Sure, they will have very sophisticated arms, computers and the like, but I'm confident that there will be many times when victory or defeat will rest on the ability of the commander on scene to lead, motivate and inspire.

What our military needs is men and women whose sense of duty overrides personal concerns, whose sense of honor allows them to make do with less, and whose sense of country transcends ethnic or family allegiance. Just how can these people be attracted to the military when service requires not only meeting standards far above those of the common citizenry, but also long hours, frequent separation, financial hardship and little recognition?

● First, by telling it like it is. Make it clear that there is a very real possibility that there will be combat, perhaps in a foreign country with which we have no clear ties. People, civilian as well as military, may be wounded or killed.

Moreover, when the chips are down there can be no more carrot and stick — no enticements, no perquisites, no easy way to opt out. Our warriors must rely on themselves and their fellow Americans. Looking out for No. 1 loses its validity very quickly when everyone is looking over the precipice, staring at the bottom of the barrel, together.

● Second, by appealing to that better man or woman who lives inside every person. Low-order enticements are short-term and cannot match the higher-order commitment to duty and country. Contemplation during my years in solitary confinement led me to conclude that a good life is one that accumulates high-quality memories.

Can memories of comfort and a workaday life, even a workaday life spiced with financial coups, compete with memories of bold strokes of service which one knows in his gut really mattered in the course of history? For what, in his old age, would one trade his lifetime memories of uplifting comradeship in times of shared danger?

● Third, by underscoring the historic roots of this nation's freedom. We've fought wars around the globe in freedom's name and have paid a terrible price for our most fundamental national belief. All must be clear on the fact that those in uniform may someday sacrifice their lives for this country and the freedom for which it stands.

**T**HE long-term health of our nation depends to a great extent on the ability of our armed forces. Those in uniform are the ones who guard the passes and protect the ramparts. Let's not stoop to marketplace tactics to man our ranks. We owe to those who will don American military uniforms the untainted pride of service to their nation and the respect of a thankful citizenry.

*Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale (USN, Ret.), now a senior research fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution, was the senior Navy prisoner of war for seven years in North Vietnam and has been awarded the Medal of Honor. Reprinted with permission from the Los Angeles Times. ✕*

# SANDINISTAS LOSING GROUND

## SOF Exclusive Interview with Nicaraguan Freedom Fighter

by Robert K. Brown

**JUAN Carlos** is a very important man, though not every American knows who he is: Juan Carlos leads one of the groups of native Nicaraguans who fight the oppressive Sandinista government. (See "A Day with the Jackals," SOF, September '81.)

I met him in Miami a few months ago to find out what he has to say to me ... and to you.

**SOF: How are things in Nicaragua?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** Every day it's better for us, worse for them. People are more vociferous in attacking the Sandinistas. They're not scared any more; 90 percent of the people are against the Sandinistas .... Some Sandinistas have defected. There are reports that some of the heavies have their bags packed in case the situation deteriorates dramatically.

**SOF: Why are the Sandinistas losing public support?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** The Sandinistas have done nothing for the country; the only thing they have done is to install communists in positions of power. Food prices are 400 to 500 percent higher. They now have ration cards like they do in Cuba. There's no sugar, no salt. All the salt is being exported. Cuba is receiving what is left of Nicaraguan production. Cuba has taken all the cattle, vegetables, rice, coffee and fish in payment for arms.

I have recently received a letter from 55 ex-guardsmen — officers who are now in Venezuela — who have offered to serve under my command. Some Sandinista defectors are ready to fight against the Sandinistas. There are approximately 500 men in the north next to the Honduran border. I have contacts with many Sandinistas in the north and as soon as we enter with significant forces they will join us.

**SOF: How many men do you have operating against the Sandinistas?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** There are 90 men in three groups: one of 24, one of 30 and one of 36 men.

**SOF: How long have they been there?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** They go in 15 to 20 days and come back out when they can't capture sufficient supplies or when they're out of ammunition.

**SOF: What is their mission?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** There are two key missions: harassment of the Sandinista forces and capturing ammunition.

**SOF: What is the attitude of the**

### ABOUT JUAN CARLOS

Juan Carlos is the leader of the National Liberation Army of Nicaragua. This former match-factory owner commands the loyalty of roughly 2,000 Nicaraguan exiles and an indeterminate number of Nicaraguans still inside the country.

Carlos' group is not the only small army fighting the new tyrants of Nicaragua; the National Liberation Army is in occasional cooperation or competition with the Nicaraguan Democratic Union, the Somosista 15th of September group and several smaller groups.

Resistance to the government of Nicaragua is pandemic in the country, but poverty does not permit adequate supply for the freedom fighters. In spite of this, brush-fire battles flare in the back-country and guerrillas evaporate into the hot jungle air before government forces can concentrate. Patrols are ambushed, roads booby-trapped, supply trucks looted and sentries disappear. A few months ago three bridges in the area of Ocotal were blown to further hobble government forces in their efforts to control widespread resistance.

Note that Juan Carlos has about 2,000 men, but can only field 90 of them for cross-border operations. More want to go, but they don't have guns to shoot or boots to get them there.

—R.K.B.

peasants toward the Sandinistas?

**JUAN CARLOS:** They oppose them. In the past the farmer had his own piece of land and was usually left alone by the government. Now this is not the case.

The Sandinistas are confiscating the farmers' crops and livestock. For instance: If the farmer has 25 chickens the Sandinistas will say he needs only five chickens and they will take the remainder. Of if he has planted three acres of bananas the Sandinistas will give him a quota of bananas he must contribute to the state.

**SOF: When did you start operating with just three teams?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** Approximately four months ago.

**SOF: How many casualties have been inflicted on the Sandinistas?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** Between 220 and 230 KIA [killed in action].

**SOF: What do you need to be more effective?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** Money and arms.

**SOF: How do you finance your operations?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** It's very difficult.

**SOF: Have you tried to get help from the United States?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** We are trying to make the necessary contacts to solicit help.

**SOF: Why is that so difficult?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** I don't know why they haven't contacted me. I have talked to various representatives of the U.S. government but they have never gotten back to me. I assume that the U.S. government is aware of the fact that we are fighting.

We fight not only to liberate Nicaragua but to preclude Central America's falling under communist control. If Central America goes, Mexico will go next. Do you Americans eventually want to fight the communists in Houston?

**SOF: Will you accept advisers?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** We'll accept help from anyone who wants to see Central America liberated.

**SOF: Are you able to pay volunteers either wages or expenses?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** Unfortunately, no. The individual would have to pay his own way. However, any volunteer would always be welcome.

**SOF: Do you still need more uniforms and boots?**

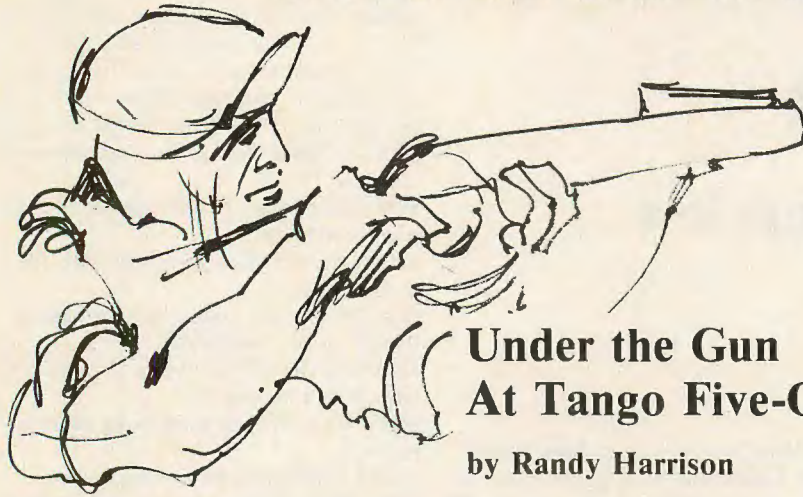
**JUAN CARLOS:** Si!

**SOF: How many?**

**JUAN CARLOS:** I'll tell you when to stop sending them.

*Although recruitment in the United States is not possible, any one wanting information about the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters can contact Soldier of Fortune Magazine, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. Furthermore, we will forward any questions, answers or fan mail we get to Juan Carlos. ✉*

# SOG COMBAT IN CAMBODIA



## Under the Gun At Tango Five-One

by Randy Harrison

**T**ANGO five-one had a very nasty reputation.

Two previous tries had sent recon teams (RTs) under the control of MACVSOG's Command and Control South (CCS) to attempt to penetrate the North Vietnamese-occupied area of Cambodia before 26 November 1968, the day on which our mission began.

Each attempt had ended in a frantic scramble to extract the team under concentrated heavy-weapons fire coming from the many prepared weapons positions which pocked the NVA's base camps like pimples on a teenager. That experience preyed on our minds as the UH-1Fs of the U.S. Air Force Green Hornets ferried us from our base in Ban Me Thout out to the launch site at the Duc Co Special Forces camp.

That general sense of foreboding was enforced immediately after we landed on the PSP and red clay runway. The launch-site commander and my personal friend, 1st Lt. Frank Lambert, glumly greeted us, his general good humor destroyed by the 200-plus-round mortar barrage that had slammed into the exposed camp the night before, killing two of his men.

Our conversation was interrupted by the squawking of forward air controller (FAC) Maj. Charles E. Anonsen, already flying over teams deployed in Cambodia. He was calling for a scramble of the slicks and guns. RT Kansas — one of the TDY (temporary tour of duty) teams from the First Special Forces Group in Okinawa — had gotten into heavy contact and already had one team member severely wounded.

Forty minutes later the choppers returned to the strip at Duc Co with the tattered team. Both Americans were all right but their interpreter had taken an AK round through the groin and was in shock. His blood soaked the Huey cabin

floor and covered the two Americans who had been working frantically on board to help them, and the Huey left for the hospital at Pleiku.

On this particular morning I was going to be inserted into Tango 51 with one of the best teams operating out of CCS at that time. It was commanded by Staff Sgt. Ancil Franks. His one-one (assistant team leader) was Sgt. John Hughes. Both were seasoned veterans of cross-border operations but there was one thing in particular that set their RT apart from all the rest.

Despite the fact that Franks' team had been operating for months in the same areas and on many of the same targets as the rest of the teams in Recon, Franks and Hughes had yet to get in a real, genuine, knock-down—drag-out, ass-kicking contest with the NVA. Of course, from my point of view as company commander, that was just fine. Our mission was to perform reconnaissance and the more frequently we could get in, observe the target and get out without any hassle, the better.

Franks didn't really mind the lack of contact all that much either, but he did admit on more than one occasion that the nickname "Dryhole" was starting to chafe him a little.

The mission for Franks' team was penetration of a target area 20 kilometers west of the Cambodian-Vietnamese border almost due west of the Duc Co Special Forces camp which we would use as a launch site. The Tonle San River was our specific target. Saigon wanted to know if the NVA were using the watercourse as a supply artery since it flowed conveniently south and appeared to be both broad and deep enough to sustain large barges.

By the time the Green Hornets reassembled and refueled it was mid-morn-

ing. We held our final briefing on the Duc Co strip, piled into our slick commanded by 1st Lt. James Fleming and headed west toward our target.

The insertion went well. We settled into our primary choice of landing zone and cleared the chopper in good time, getting to our assembly point and moving into the thick undergrowth about 100 yards. We stopped and listened. There is no way to describe the sepulchral silence that blankets the jungle after a helicopter drops you off.

Our commo check with the FAC produced no problem so we stayed in position until we received the code-word from the FAC that a phoney insertion had been completed on a clearing we selected for the purpose about 15 klicks away.

I was satisfied with the way Franks moved his team. His Rhade tribe Montagnard team members were experienced men who had been doing this for years with one Special Forces outfit or another, and the 'Yards on Franks' team had been together as a unit for more than five years.

The point stayed between five and 15 yards ahead of us, depending on the thickness of the vegetation. Next came Franks, then me, then two 'Yards, Hughes and the tail gunner who trailed us by no more than 10 yards. E Ton Bal, the Montagnards' leader, a small man whom we affectionately called Tony Ball, was next to Franks. The tail gunner was the grenadier.

The team had been thoroughly rehearsed in immediate reaction drills and carried their weapons covering a 360-degree zone around the team.

Movement procedures called for what amounted to an adaptation of the old Rogers' Rangers rules: Never move straight to the target; zigzag as much as terrain, time, food and water allow.

Take frequent, irregularly spaced listening breaks. This is particularly important in heavy undergrowth where the only means of locomotion is crawling. If you are being followed or shadowed, it is impossible for your adversary to move without making noise as well, and you soon learn to tell the difference between a human and an animal breaking brush.

We carefully avoided ridgelines and the crests of the ravines that led to the river, and after an hour and a quarter, we came out on the target. Now we had to find a suitable site for a 10-day stay. Most CCS missions were designed for five days' duration. The exception was a point observation where the stationary nature of the assignment allowed for carrying more food and water.

After another hour of moving up to and away from the river bank, we located an ideal site; a large, semicircular area about 150 meters in radius in which the undergrowth was mainly knee-high, waxy-leaved plants covering the floor

beneath 200-foot-high hardwood trees that formed a solid canopy above us.

The bank sloped down to the river in such a way that the entire team could live in the five-yard-wide area between the river and the clearing beyond. Most important was the fact that because of the drop in the bank we could not be seen from the land side and screening vegetation made it difficult for us to be seen from the river.

While I worked up our sitrep, Franks and Tony Ball masterfully deployed the claymores. After Hughes contacted the FAC and sent the report, we settled in for what we all hoped would be an uneventful stay.

It wasn't.

Within minutes, Tony scrambled down to us from his vantage point: "VC. Many VC moving beside us."

Franks and I got up to the rim of the bank in time to see the last of the NVA regulars disappear into the tree line, weapon slung over his shoulder. We heard them talking.

They had passed within 20 yards of us and evidently were unaware of our presence. Since such occurrences were not at all uncommon for our teams, we decided to stay put.

Less than 30 minutes later, however, the situation changed permanently when Tony again caught our attention with his signalling. Before he finished his warning, the grenadier fired and hit one of the NVA in the chest with his M79 round, its muffled "whumpf" reverberating in the cathedral-like grove. The NVA it hit disintegrated in the blast of dirty grey smoke.

Three crouching NVA spaced 10 meters apart had emerged line-abreast from the tree line, walking straight toward us, weapons ready. There was no doubt that they were looking for us and now we had a full-scale contact on our hands. So much for Franks' nickname of "Dryhole."

The rattle of small-arms fire erupted as two more NVA made the unusual mistake of exposing themselves. They broke cover from the woodline and ran toward us and the cover provided by intervening tree trunks. Franks and I shot at the one on the left and dropped him before he had gone 10 feet. The other made it behind a tree.

Tony scrambled over to us, giggling out loud. Back at base, Tony drank too much, was in fact an alcoholic, but even for him, cracking up in the middle of a fire fight was a bit much.

"What the fuck are you laughing at, Tony?" I asked.

"He stan'in' on a claymore. He stan'in' on a claymore," Tony replied.

"Well, squeeze that mother off," Franks yelled.

The unfortunate NVA had taken cover behind a tree that Tony had used as a claymore site. Its broad base pro-

ected us from the mine's vicious backblast. We ducked as Tony squeezed the charger. The explosion was painful to the ears in the echo-chamber vastness of the grove but it was followed by immediate, total silence. We quickly raised our heads enough to see something plop heavily down in front of us midway between us and the woodline. It was a leg.

"I'd like to run out there and see if I can pick up any documents off those we got so far," Franks said. I nodded and he scurried out to the dead, searching them quickly and returning with a weapon and a fistful of papers. On examination they turned out to be letters, pay records and personal correspondence.

The hiatus created by the claymore was brief. Ragged automatic-weapons fire coming from several points on the landside rapidly grew in volume and sources until communicating with the FAC was getting hard as hell.

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## I Crawled Back As Franks Yelled: "Get Down!"

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We had already called for gunship support and an exfil but Anonsen said he couldn't be sure of our exact location under the towering trees. To complicate matters even more, a smoke grenade, the usual position marker, wouldn't do the trick this time because it would be too filtered by the canopy. We decided that flashing a mirror or panel through one of the breaks in the canopy would be the only chance.

I crawled out to approximately 15 yards in front of the team and lay on my back. It took about three minutes for Anonsen to get a fix on me; then I crawled back under covering fire from the team. I had to repeat the process twice more within the next hour and each time enemy fire got worse. The third trip got hairy since they knew exactly where I was going. I noticed with relief that when I was on my back, none of the enemy fire seemed lower than two feet off the ground.

As I approached the team's position after the last foray, Franks yelled at me to turn around and get down. Two NVA were running toward me. They were partially screened from the team by the trees. I opened fire on both of them as they ran side by side without their weapons in firing position. They did not make the trees.

The arrival of the gunships was a wonderful sight.

Each of the UH-1Fs carried two door-mounted 7.62mm miniguns that had variable rates of fire and rocket pods full

of 2.75-inch rockets. They brought their solid streams of scarlet tracers within 30 meters of us on pass after pass which they made parallel to the river.

The enemy fire had been automatic small arms coming from only in front of us, but after the fourth or fifth gunship pass, we began taking heavy auto-weapons fire from across the river. That made our position untenable since we had no solid cover to shield us from the 12.7mm fire lacing our site.

We couldn't stay any longer. The FAC notified us that about 30 meters north of our location there was a tiny clearing just large enough for Fleming to touch down the skids on the bank and hang his tail boom out over the river. That was it.

We prepared to make a run for it as Fleming made a hair-raising approach up the river behind us. He swooped up over the bank into the designated clearing, but as we started to move, the woodline in front of us literally erupted. Although no one got hit, we obviously couldn't get through that kind of fire.

Fleming backed his bird out over the river and hauled ass out of the area.

The gunships returned, this time pressing the attack, knowing that dwindling daylight, fuel and ammunition were working against us all. The gun piloted by Capt. David Miller took a stitching of 12.7mm rounds and his oil-pressure light came on. Despite that, Miller made two more passes over us before he took more hits. He autorotated down a couple of clicks away and was immediately picked up by a slick.

This meant only three guns and two slicks were left. Because of the classified cross-border nature of the operation, we were allowed to use only the Green Hornets. If we couldn't extract ourselves with our own organic assets, well...

I looked across the river. "How many of you can swim?" I asked the 'Yards. Only two could. "Franks, Hughes, we're going to have to swim for it after dark. One at a time. Get ready to drain your canteens and pass them to the guys who can't swim to help them float," I said.

In the middle of all this, I remembered that I had a ruck full of candy bars that I had scrounged and that I would have to leave behind if we swam for it. As I was digging for more ammo, I grabbed as many candy bars as I could reach and hurled them into the river.

"If we get waxed I don't want those bastards celebrating with my goddamn Baby Ruths," I thought.

Anonsen came on and told us there would be one more attempt at exfil. I was tempted to tell him to forget it as we were already down so many birds and had other teams on the ground... but I didn't. I wanted out of there too badly.

I told the team that when I gave the  
*Continued on page 64*



# FIREARMS TRAINING IN THE U.S.S.R.

## Soviet Marksmanship From Cradle to Coffin

by David C. Isby



**W**HILE the most visible manifestations of Soviet power — missiles, bombers, tanks — receive most of the West's attention, the Soviets have not made the mistake of neglecting their power's foundation — men with rifles. Weapons training in the Soviet armed forces is different in form and aim from that in its U.S. counterpart, but it is an effective, well-thought-out system.

Civilian weapons training is considered important enough for the Soviet Union to expend a considerable amount of money and ammunition, but this does not guarantee effectiveness. As well as having obvious military value, these popular programs make a powerful con-

**Soviet boy scouts — Pioneers — with wooden rifles guard local communist memorial in dual-purpose exercise in arms familiarization and loyalty to state. Photo: V. M. Martinova**

tribution to the militarization of Soviet society as a whole. This is not propaganda or a Stalinist hangover, but modern policy fully implemented by 1967 and, in the words of Col. William F. Scott, former air attache in Moscow, "Whatever the reasons, a major program to make the Soviet Union a nation trained in arms did begin in this period, with the military indoctrination of the very young starting almost in the cradle."

Civilian marksmanship training for the Soviet citizen begins with the Pioneers. This Communist Party-supported organization is for boys and girls between 8 and 15. While sharing much with Western Boy or Girl Scouts it also gives military training and political education. Pioneers learn to recognize Soviet military ranks and are taught military courtesy and drill, using wooden rifles at first. Pioneers then practice with .22-caliber rifles on both indoor and outdoor ranges. They also throw grenades.

Most Soviet civilian weapons training is carried out under the auspices of DOSAAF — The Volunteer Society for

Bewhiskered, bemedalled instructor directs training operations for wooden-rifle-armed Young Pioneers. He is not, despite appearance, Orthodox priest but WWII vet. Photo: U.S. Army



ABOVE: Grimly pleased instructor directs young Pioneers in target practice with peep-sighted .22 rifles. Photo: V. M. Martinova

Cooperation with the Army, Aviation and the Fleet. Although under the authority of the Communist Party rather

than the Ministry of Defense, DOSAAF is commanded by a full general of the army. Its staff includes many active-duty officers, supplementing retired officers and civilian staff. Every secondary school in the Soviet Union is required to have a DOSAAF unit under the 1967 Military Service law, as Soviet citizens are supposed to undergo basic training — including marksmanship — while still at secondary school and to be ready when drafted to take their place in the ranks. All students must join DOSAAF.

The result is somewhat less imposing in reality. DOSAAF has been criticized as being inefficient and bureaucratic even by Soviet standards. Facilities vary from excellent to inadequate, being especially poor or nonexistent in the rural and Asian areas of the USSR. Only the strategic rocket forces and airborne forces — which have top priority in manpower — can claim that all their draftees have complete preinduction training through DOSAAF. Indeed, half of all draftees going to the airborne forces in the early 1970s were jump-qualified in DOSAAF.

In DOSAAF, weapons instruction is military standard, although the rifles used are primarily SKSs and AK-47s. DOSAAF weapons training goes far beyond the rifle and grenade practice of the Pioneers; machine guns, mortars and artillery are also covered. Tank, armored-vehicle, and truck-driving and maintenance courses are also offered by DOSAAF. Graduates of specialized-weapons courses can become armorers, snipers or sergeants specializing in weapons training upon induction.

DOSAAF also holds games and competitions in military skills, which serve the same purpose as the U.S. Army ARTEPs and test training effectiveness. The culmination of each training year is the Orlenok games, a "military-sport Olympiad" in which target and simulated combat shooting of all infantry weapons is a popular contest. Such games are held throughout the USSR and their total of seven million participants give evidence of the near-universality of Soviet civilian weapons training.

DOSAAF units are often closely linked with the Civil Defense troops, and contribute to combat readiness of Soviet reserves. Reservists are vital to the vast Soviet army; in peacetime many divisions are under 50-percent strength and must be fleshed out by reservists on mobilization. After a Soviet soldier finishes his two-year active service, he still has a reserve obligation of 30 years' service. He is usually drafted at age 18, discharged at age 20, and in the reserves to age 50. Reservists will normally be called up for four three-month tours during their first 15 years, two two-month tours in their 15th through 25th years, and one tour of one month in the last five years in the reserve.



BELOW: Instructors check civilian riflewoman's scope with heavy-barreled bolt-action target rifle at GTO marksmanship training. Photo: V. M. Martinova



## SOVIET SMALL ARMS

*Last year SOF received the following letter. We sent it to Peter G. Kokalis, our automatic-weapons editor, for comment. We hereby print letter and response, because the theories offered are of public interest. — The Eds.*

American Rifleman has published "Russia's New .22," in which the new Russian AKS-74 rifle and cartridge are found to be "a mere extension of the logical course of small-arms development." I believe it to be more than that.

The Soviet Union is not a wealthy country, either in money or technology; therefore, its military products tend to be simple to the point of crudity: bulky, heavy and not always safe for the user. Yet they are rugged, easily manufactured in quantity from non-strategic materials, and extremely reliable under harsh field conditions. Its designers also are not hampered by the "Not Invented Here" syndrome that plagues us, and consequently are not above stealing other nations' designs if they find them suitable. Finally, the Russians seem to design weapons and equipment to do one or at most two jobs, unlike our multi-mission designs.

When M16s were captured in Vietnam, the Russians evaluated them and decided to have one of their own, but lacked the technology to copy and mass-produce the M16 in quantity — or perhaps found the M16 itself an undesirable weapon. So, instead of trying to engineer a brand-new rifle and cartridge from scratch, they made do with the designs they had available. The AK-47 is legendary throughout the world for its simplicity, ruggedness and reliability, so they kept its basic design and updated and improved it. They installed the now-famous muzzle brake which forces the muzzle down during firing, and introduced rifling that would resist fouling and wear less.

The first time I saw a photograph of the 5.45mm cartridge, I thought it was a .50-caliber machine-gun round until I saw an M16 round beside it. Again, the Russians may have found the 5.56 round too difficult or simply not desirable enough to copy — it uses expensive brass, bronze and lead, and they may have not been able to copy our propellant. Again they used what they had.

Here is where I may be way off-base: Our .50-caliber machine-gun round is a sound, proven design as is, so the Russians simply took it and made a smaller version. To make the cartridge case and bullet, they used mild steel, giving the bullet a copper

wash, saving copper and copper alloys. Instead of developing a "super propellant," they used what they already had in quantity. To make the bullet, they used cheap mild-steel slugs which could simply be dropped or pressed into the preformed jacket with just enough of the more expensive lead to hold it in place — either end first, at that — and the open base of the jacket then swaged shut.

The AK-74 is not a "super-weapon," and never was intended or represented to be one. The M16 can be used as an assault rifle, a courier's weapon, or — when fitted with a scope — a sniping rifle within the limits of its round. The AK-74, on the other hand, if descriptions of its accuracy are any indication, cannot be used to snipe; it has less accuracy and too short a range. The cartridge



Reverence to violence as implement of state: Soviet border trooper kisses AKM. Photo V. M. Martinova

fires a lighter, slower-moving bullet than the 5.56 round, and the tests described by the NRA indicate that it has considerably less penetrating power. So, what is the AK-74, then?

The AK-74 is an infantryman's assault rifle. Period. It is designed to be durable and reliable under the hardest combat conditions, simple for the Soviet soldier to handle, field-strip and clean even under pressure. It is not a target rifle and does not need to be: Its accuracy is adequate for the relatively close ranges of combat, and it does not need to pierce armor to seriously wound an opponent. Striking an arm or leg, its tumbling bullet will mangle the limb and take the enemy out of the fight immediately; the injury will necessitate a prolonged stay in the hospital which will in turn place a drain on the opposition's logistics. This is all the Russians designed and intended the AK-74 to do. Westerners may say that the new rifle is inferior to the M16, but I believe that the Russians have achieved an outstanding engineering feat, and at considerably less cost and material than a comparable feat would have cost us.

Do not misunderstand me. I am not saying that the Soviet system is superior to our own — quite the reverse. But I do say: Face facts. The Russians use only as much quality control as they absolutely need to accomplish the task set them and in spite of monetary and technological shortfalls they usually accomplish that task.

Sincerely,

D.W. Reiley

USCG Support Center  
Kodiak, Alaska

*Peter G. Kokalis replies:*

*D. W. Reiley's letter is intelligent and thought-provoking. Soviet weapon systems have been characterized by simple, but efficient designs with little effort expended on cosmetics. And they certainly should never be underestimated.*

*However, I must take exception with his contention that we are plagued by the "Not Invented Here" syndrome. The new squad automatic, the XM 249, is, of course, the FN Minimi and the new Abrams main battle tanks and the Infantry Fighting Vehicle are equipped with the M240 general-purpose machine gun, which is the well-known FN MAG. Our current general-purpose machine gun (GPMG), the M60, employs several design features taken from the German WWII MG 42 and FG 42 machine guns. Many other examples of foreign design influence could be cited, dating back to the 30-40 Krag which entered U.S. military service in 1892 and was a somewhat improved version of the Danish Krag-Jorgensen Model 1889.*

*Furthermore, Reiley's hypothesis that the new 5.45mm cartridge is a scaled-down version of the 12.7x-108mm Soviet round is not correct. There are a number of reasons for this, the most salient of which is the much steeper shoulder angle on the 5.45mm case, a design feature obviously intended to increase the powder capacity of the case.*

*Finally, steel is cheaper to buy but not to manufacture than brass. Steel requires more draws, more anneals and more normalizing. Brass is therefore a much better "buy" in the munitions industry. However, the important consideration is always what domestic materials are available in the greatest quantity for manufacturers to utilize. Steel cases require a greater expenditure of tungsten carbide tooling than does the use of brass. The ComBloc countries possess the world's largest reserves of the rare earth minerals used in the manufacture of tungsten carbide tooling.*



Russian IPSC: USSR right to bear arms does mean right to join army. Para unit armed with 7.62mm AKMs takes burning ruin in exercise imitating house-to-house combat in European cities. Photo: V. M. Martinova

DOSAAF is the main component of a larger group: the GTO, the All-Union Sports-Technical Complex Ready for Labor and Defense of the USSR. By using DOSAAF, factory, Communist Party and other facilities, GTO's reserve officers and NCOs instruct civilians and

reservists in marksmanship. Rifle, parachute and radio use and repair are taught and practiced. Even though this is a voluntary activity, there is no shortage of participants in GTO activities, since Soviet citizens can often claim time off from their jobs or at least from the "volunteer" labor that takes up much of their time.

One drawback to Soviet civilian weapons training is the multiplicity of groups involved. The Army, the Communist Party, the Ministry of Defense, the Military Civil Defense, the Military Civil Defense Troops, the Pioneers,

DOSAAF and GTO all form a web of red tape. This is typical Soviet practice — the formation of redundant organizations prevents any centralization of power outside the highest circles of government and creates a system of checks and balances.

Every six months, every Soviet Army unit sends home those soldiers who have completed their two years' service and receives an equal number of draftees as replacements. When they arrive at their unit, they will have been in the army for about one month of processing, classification and basic instruction. Each batch will include both experienced DOSAAF-trained riflemen and those who know little about firearms. "Basic" takes until the end of the six-month training cycle, starting in each unit with the arrival of replacements, before these men can be considered fully combat-ready.

Initial weapons training is by lecture — on basic principles, nomenclature and safety procedures. This is followed by hands-on training of assembly and disassembly, firing positions, trigger squeeze and range estimation. Great emphasis is placed on ensuring that each soldier knows how to zero his rifle's sights; and it is stressed that a soldier without a zeroed rifle is a liability to his comrades in battle. All these skills are taught in platoon-size groups, usually outdoors, and using standard service rifles — 7.62mm AKMs or 5.45mm AK-74s for the motorized rifle units, 7.62mm AKMs for other divisions. Only after extensive dry-firing and oral spot quizzes by the training NCOs is a group allowed on the range for live firing.

The first live firing is against man-sized stationary targets at 200 meters. This usually yields good results, maintaining trainee enthusiasm; smaller targets at longer (though still known) ranges and moving targets are gradually introduced. When the group has qualified on these targets, it then moves on to the more advanced "combat" ranges. There, the soldier must quickly engage a variety of moving, stationary, pop and rapidly appearing and disappearing targets at unknown ranges. Targets are to be engaged with short bursts of automatic fire — not semiautomatic fire as in the U.S. Army — fired from the shoulder. Other ranges include "combat trails" and obstacles that must be surmounted while firing on ranges similar to the U.S. "quick-kill" or "jungleland" ones introduced during the Vietnam War.

Motorized rifle troops (the Soviet equivalent of U.S. mechanized infantry), after qualifying on the combat range, move on to learn how to fire from BMP infantry fighting vehicles or from armored personnel carriers. Most of the actual firing instruction takes place from wooden mockups, many of which are

*Continued on page 74*

# SOF SHAPE-UP

## Prepare & Practice For Fighting Trim

by Alexander M.S. McColl

**S***SOLDIER of Fortune Magazine* flaunts the subtitle, "Journal of Professional Adventurers." All the profiles and surveys of the readership indicate that our readers include a very high percentage of former SOG soldiers, Marines, paratroopers, active-duty military, law enforcement officers and others who occasionally deal in violence as professionals. We live in a world where proficiency with rifle, pistol, shotgun and other weapons, individual and small-unit tactics, and other combat skills are what it takes to stay alive and get the job done. Over the years SOF has brought you the best information anyone could get on all these subjects.

But it's not enough to be a crack combat-pistol shooter, parachutist, expert in scouting and patrolling, and so on unless you're also in physical shape to go out and do it and go on doing it as long as necessary. If you can knock out 30 push-ups, 50 sit-ups and then run three or four miles at something better than an "airborne shuffle," you can stop reading right now and go on to the

next article. If you can't, you're overdue for setting up a program to get yourself into shape.

And here are the basic steps:

● First, the state of mind. Only you can do this, and there's very little help you can get from mechanical gadgets. It's a matter of patience, persistence, self-discipline and other boring but necessary virtues. You don't make an athlete in one workout, and the only place to start is where you are. Don't try to go too far too fast, and be wary of setting yourself unreasonable goals.

● Second, get a thorough medical checkup, including an electrocardiogram (EKG). If you drop dead with a heart attack the first time you go out running, it can spoil your whole program. In the bigger cities there are doctors who specialize in athletes. Go to one of these or your family doctor; have him check you out and follow his advice.

● Third, and this goes along with everything else, get your gut rigged in. Check the box for the U.S. Army's infamous height and weight chart, some-

times known as "Uncle Bernie's Chart" after Gen. Bernard Rogers, who put it into effect when he was chief of staff of the Army. A lot of respectable scientific and medical knowledge went into making this chart. If you're over the maximum weight for your height on the chart, or even close, and you're not a weightlifter, it's probably time to lose some weight. You can survive without cakes, ice cream, candy, soda pop, cookies, pancakes and beer. Beware of trying to take off too much weight too fast and of fad diets.

● Fourth, set yourself a training program **AND STICK TO IT!** Unless you live in an area where outdoor running is extremely inconvenient for a large part of the year, you don't have to spend a lot of money joining a health club. There's no law against doing push-ups, sit-ups and stretching in your bedroom. My recommended workout consists of push-ups, sit-ups and back arches followed by a run. If you program yourself for too many different kinds of calisthenics you run the risk either of not doing enough

# WEIGHT TABLES FOR ARMY PERSONNEL

## MALE (Regardless of Age)

Height (inches):	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	
Weight (pounds):																						
Minimum	100	102	103	104	105	106	107	111	115	119	123	127	131	135	139	143	147	151	153	159	166	
Maximum	141	146	150	155	160	165	170	176	181	186	192	197	203	208	214	220	226	232	238	244	250	

## WOMEN (Regardless of Age)

Height (inches):	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
Weight (pounds):															
Minimum	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	109	112	115	118	122	125
Maximum	113	117	121	125	130	134	138	142	147	151	156	160	165	170	175

Note: Height and weight data do not include allowances for shoes and other clothing.

## TABLE OF WEIGHT

**Table 1. Table of Militarily Acceptable Weight (in Pounds) as Related to Age and Height for Males—Initial procurement**

Height (inches)	Minimum (regardless of age)	*MAXIMUM				
		16-20 years	21-30 years	31-35 years	36-40 years	41 years and over
60	100	158	163	162	157	150
61	102	163	168	167	162	155
62	103	168	174	173	168	160
63	104	174	180	178	173	165
64	105	179	185	184	179	171
65	106	185	191	190	184	176
66	107	191	197	196	190	182
67	111	197	203	202	196	187
68	115	203	209	208	202	193
69	119	209	215	214	208	198
70	123	215	222	220	214	204
71	127	221	228	227	220	210
72	131	227	234	233	226	216
73	135	233	241	240	233	222
74	139	240	248	246	239	228
75	143	246	254	253	246	234
76	147	253	261	260	252	241
77	151	260	268	266	259	247
78	153	267	275	273	266	254
*79	159	273	282	281	273	260
*80	166	280	289	288	279	267

\*Applies only to personnel enlisted, inducted, or appointed in Army and enlisted or inducted into Air Force. Does not apply to Navy or Marine Corps enlistees or inductees.

**Table II. Table of Militarily Acceptable Weight (in Pounds) as Related to Age and Height for Females—Initial Procurement**

Height (inches)	Minimum (regardless of age)	Maximum					
		18-20 years	21-24 years	25-30 years	31-35 years	36-40 years	41 years and over
58	90	121	123	126	124	135	135
59	92	123	125	129	126	139	138
60	94	125	127	132	128	142	141
61	96	127	129	135	131	145	141
62	98	129	132	139	132	148	147
63	100	135	136	141	136	151	150
64	102	136	140	144	140	155	154
65	104	140	144	148	145	159	158
66	106	144	149	151	150	164	163
67	109	147	151	156	154	168	167
68	112	152	158	159	159	172	171
69	115	158	160	164	162	176	175
70	118	162	166	168	167	181	180
71	122	168	171	171	171	185	184
72	125	171	175	176	175	189	188

of any one to do much good, or of finding yourself in a program that's too burdensome to stick with. None of these calisthenics require any equipment. If 10 push-ups is all you can do, start with 10 each day — without fail — maybe twice a day and you will be surprised in how few weeks you work up to 30 "plus one for SOF." The same with sit-ups and back-arches.

Running is the real core of the program. If you live someplace where it is impossible to run outdoors in the winter, then you may have to spring for a membership in your local YMCA or whatever, and go swim laps every day or consider buying an exercise bicycle. Otherwise run or jog every day. Regularity and persistence really pay off.

It does take time. Four miles at nine minutes per mile (which is not a bad objective to work up to) takes 36 minutes, plus time for changing into running clothes, getting to wherever you run, walking a bit afterwards so your legs don't knot up, going home and showering. One plan is to invest in a stopwatch and a notebook and after you have worked yourself up to a respectable distance (i.e., three to five miles) start working on cutting down your time.

The only essential equipment for running is running shoes. The most expensive shoes are not necessarily the best, but be prepared to spend whatever it takes to get yourself the right shoes for you. Otherwise look forward to foot, ankle and knee problems.

For the rest, you can do nicely in GI boot socks, fatigue trousers and T-shirt, or something expensive and dapper like that. In cold weather you'll wear more than a T-shirt, and if you have the money to spend on a fancy running outfit, why not? In most larger cities there are stores that specialize in gear for runners and they generally provide good advice on what kind of shoes are best for your feet, build and style of running.

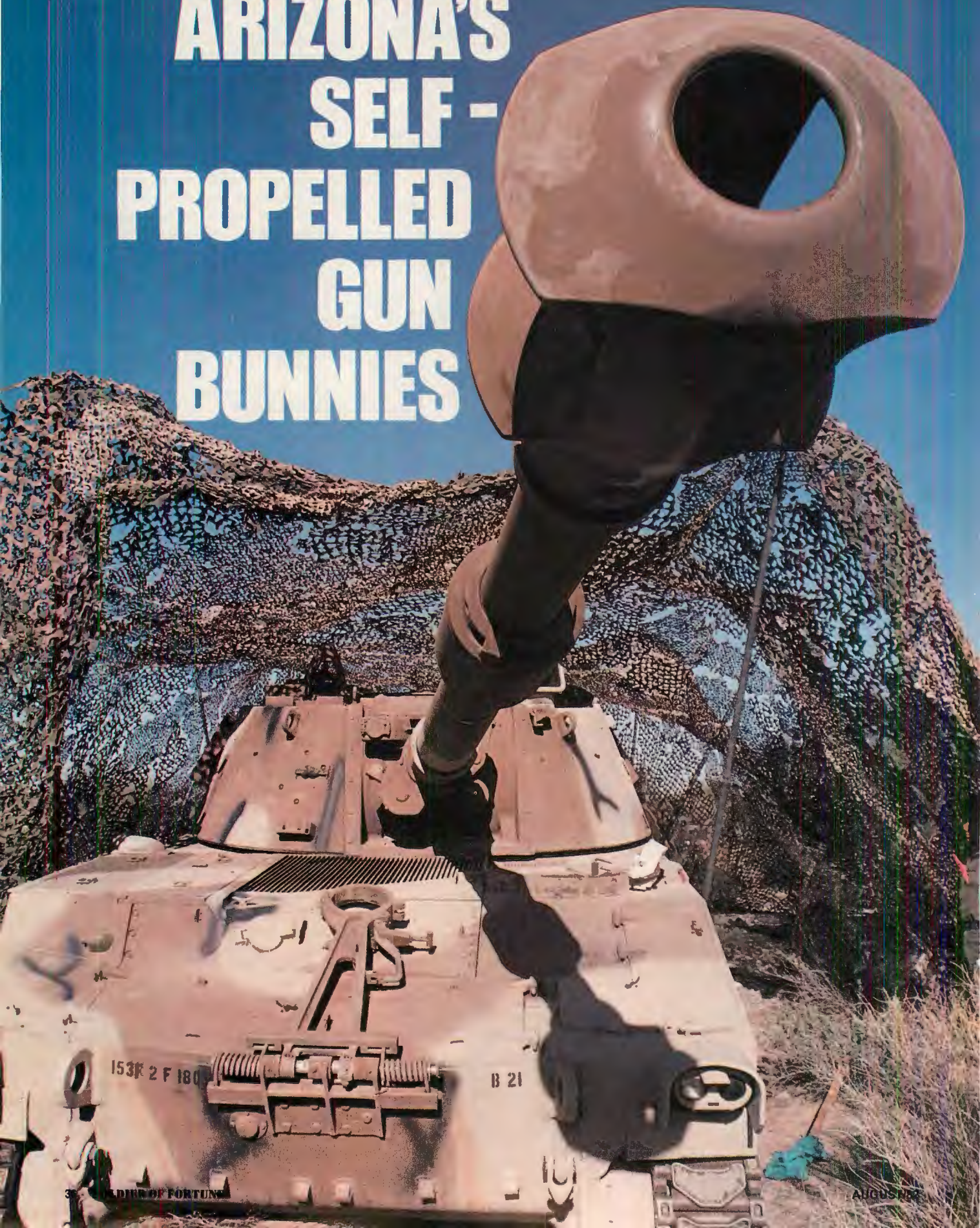
The chief virtue of running is that it not only builds up your legs — although the only way to get in shape for hiking with a rucksack is hiking with a rucksack — but it also does wondrous things for your heart, lungs, circulation and general health, especially if you also get your weight down and cut back on the booze and tobacco.

Dr. Albert Hodgman of Kalamazoo, Mich., a very wise doctor, makes it clear that what's wrong with most of his patients comes from "too much food, too much alcohol, too much tobacco and not enough exercise."

The only person who can train you is you. Except for the running shoes it's not a matter of equipment and gadgets; it's a matter of will-power, self-discipline and patient persistence. Didn't I read somewhere that one of the necessary traits of a warrior and leader is exactly this sort of inner discipline? ✕

SOF Takes to the Field With

# ARIZONA'S SELF- PROPELLED GUN BUNNIES



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B 21

## Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

**A** recent live-fire field training exercise (FTX) of the 1st Battalion, 180th Artillery, of the Arizona National Guard provided SOF with the opportunity to observe the M109A3 155mm self-propelled howitzer in action and to re-evaluate the entire concept of self-propelled (SP) artillery.

Many thousand M109s have been produced and they are in service throughout the NATO alliance. They utilize the same chassis and power plant as the M108 105mm SP howitzer. A fairly large vehicle, offering the crew more than adequate space to operate the gun, it was developed by the Allison division of General Motors. The hull and turret are

constructed of aluminum armor, but, because of its size, the M109 is quite heavy — more than 26 tons. It is airtransportable, however, in the C-123 and C-130 aircraft. The M109A3 can float with the aid of wash screens and flotation bags stowed inside; although Arizona's climate was not conducive to an actual demonstration of this facet of the equipment's capability.

Regular Army observers, part of the Army's National Guard Affiliation Program, from the 3rd Battalion, 18th Artillery at Ft. Sill, Okla., were present during the two-day maneuver held at the Florence, Ariz., gunnery range. Our visit

was spent with Bravo battery from Casa Grande, Ariz. The battery was using high-explosive (HE) projectiles with impact fuses and firing with great effect at targets some 9,000 meters away. The maximum effective range of this weapon is 18,000 meters.

While capable of using illumination, white phosphorus and nuclear projectiles, great emphasis is now placed on the so-called Improved Conventional Munitions (ICM), which represent 70 to 80 percent of the U.S. Artillery's current ammunition inventory. An ICM projectile contains 80 sub-munitions (bomblets), either anti-personnel or anti-armor, which disperse on impact, bounce up about waist high and then detonate. Good luck, Ivan.

Mine fields can now be laid by artillery. Furthermore, scatterable munitions, such as the ADAM (Area Deniable Antitank Mine), contain 36 mines in one projectile, and the RAAM (Remotely Activated Antitank Mine) carries nine mines in its warhead.

The Texas Instruments TI 59 magnetic-card programmable computer (first described in "Bush League Gunnery," SOF, March '79) is still the much preferred Fire Direction System. A special program chip for artillery functions is now available.

The often-stated purpose of self-propelled artillery is to "keep up with the armor." But does it really need to do so when used in the indirect-fire role? With a maximum effective range now of almost 12 miles, it would seem to me that the projectiles can do the keeping up. Do we really need the cross-country capability of a tracked vehicle? In most instances, it is possible to move less expensive towed artillery to almost any location by only slightly less direct routes than those employed by SP guns.

By the early '60s the supposed mobility of SP guns was de-emphasized and their ability to provide the crews protection against nuclear warfare stressed. Their use as essentially conventional artillery has remained entrenched in the West. The Soviets have more recently altered the SP into a true tactical assault gun (the Soviet 152mm M-73 and 122mm M-74) which can actually accompany the tanks and deliver a heavy, direct, short-range punch immediately when required. This advantage, however, comes at the expense of stabilized long-range, indirect-fire capability.

A combination of towed artillery for most long-range indirect-fire roles and less complex, lighter and more mobile assault SPs of the new Soviet type for the close-in firepower role seems sensible. Unfortunately, the trend in the West seems to be ever more expensive and cumbersome SP artillery, an extension of the philosophy that we must counter the Soviets' numerical advantage with ever more advanced weaponry. ☒



ABOVE: M109A3 155mm self-propelled howitzer is fitted with infrared night-vision equipment. Maximum range is 14,600 meters. BELOW: M109 of Arizona Army National Guard fires at Florence, Ariz., gunnery range.





# LEBANON ON \$3.17 A DAY

## American Merc Finds Little Pay and No Thanks

Text & Photos by David McGrady

I knew all the bad news before I met Haddad the second time.

The Lebanese soldiers suspected me, the Lebanese civilians despised me, rations were Israeli leftovers, my rifle looked like refuse from an Army ordnance film on weapons abuse, we were short on ammunition, everybody looked alike to me, I didn't understand their language, they didn't speak mine and there were flies everywhere. The only people in a worse position than mine were the rather soft-looking, neatly uniformed Norwegian UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon) troops. At least I was on a side.

Getting in this much trouble wasn't easy. There weren't many other foreigners in Haddad's command, and they didn't expect anybody to just walk in and sign up. After I finally found out how to meet people and where they were, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) dragged me off for a security check and a quick meeting with Haddad. I took my clean slate and stamp of approval back to my hotel where I waited to be picked up by the representatives of the Lebanese Forces.

Several soldiers finally arrived in a cab. As they came nearer, I noticed all but one wore Israeli fatigues. The Phalangist wearing Lebanese army fatigues

was the first to welcome me; he was a stocky, tough-looking Lebanese who went by the name of Joseph Abu Ar-rage. I guessed he was the commanding officer by the Army of Free Lebanon shoulder patch he wore and the way the others looked to him for further instructions. As they individually greeted me, I quickly realized only one could speak English — a short, lean bloke named Tim, who had served in the Canadian army. The other foreigner was Maurice, a Frenchman who'd spent eight years in the French Foreign Legion.

I threw my luggage into the truck and climbed in just as we pulled away. Tim and I found a place to sit among some field equipment while Maurice rode in reasonable comfort up front in the cab.

I accepted a cigarette from Tim (I smoke only cigars, but picky people don't last long in this business), and he clued me in on what to expect at Marjayoun, Haddad's headquarters.

Trying to be casual about it, Tim said, "Forget everything you've heard about living conditions over here. In regards to us [foreigners], it's worse than you can imagine.

"For starters, I'm the closest thing to a medic you'll ever see in Free Lebanon," Tim said. "I took basic first aid in the Canadian army and spent a few

weeks assisting the medical personnel at the Israeli hospital in Metulla. That covers my training."

Tim confessed, "The Israelis don't want to give us any decent medical supplies because the Lebanese in the militia have been known to sell the stuff to the stores in the market or to friends to earn a few Lebanese pounds to supplement their pay from the Israelis.

"As for your weapon, you'll be issued the old Israeli version of the 7.62 FN rifle, which is only semiautomatic. If you're real lucky the barrel won't be full of rust. They haven't seen a drop of oil since they were put in storage sometime after the Arab/Israeli wars. Even if the barrel is usable, chances are the gas regulator will be frozen in position, the extractor won't extract, the rifle will break open when a round is fired or it'll have a rear sight so loose you'll think it's going to fall off." Between meeting Tim and seeing Haddad, after the initial security interview, there was ample opportunity to verify everything Tim said.

The second time I saw Haddad was in a Lebanese home. Saad Haddad is the major who leads a 2,000-man militia called the Christian Lebanese Forces of Free Lebanon. Heavily supported by the Israelis, his force controls a roughly 10-mile-wide strip of land that covers





**Author Dave McGrady sits behind Browning Cal. .50 heavy machine gun mounted atop Sherman M4 tank. Photo taken at border strip post 302.**

Israel's northern border. Maj. Haddad was waiting to greet me.

Upon our entering the room, the major stood and welcomed me with a warm handshake. We then seated ourselves on the nearby sofa, and he began to brief me on the present situation in southern Lebanon.

"The Palestinians have been using the ceasefire to rebuild and resupply," he said. "Soon they will be up to the same strength as they were before the shelling started. I expect them to break the ceasefire anytime now, and when they do we'll hit them with everything we've got."

"The Lebanese people will only be able to enjoy freedom again when the Syrians and the Palestinians are driven from our soil. These foreign occupiers are at the roots of Lebanon's problems." The major rose to leave.

He said, "You are now one of us, and what is ours is yours. Even though we have to do without, I hope you will like it here. Joseph is a fine commander; he has been with me for a long time. He can teach you many things, so watch him and learn our ways of fighting and staying alive. You should see a lot of action, Dave, so be careful."

After shaking my hand and saying goodbye, Maj. Haddad walked out to his jeep and his waiting driver. They sped off into the darkness.

**Haddad's cedar symbols proclaim allegiance as M113A1 speeds through Marjayoun on call.**



Joseph then called the rest of his APC crew into the family room. When we were all seated, he started trying to talk with me, using Tim as his interpreter. It would have gone smoothly if Tim had only learned more than just a few words of the Arabic language. All he understood was that Joseph was assigning me to his APC crew because of my prior combat experience in Rhodesia.

Tim explained APC duty: "We have to report to Joseph's house for duty three times a week, and our next duty day is tomorrow. We'll get here just before dark, and sit around and pass the time the best way we can while listening for our call sign to come over the radio. Some nights we'll be called out to patrol perimeter and towns within our operational area or provide firepower for an outpost under attack. If we don't receive a call by 2300 hours we'll return to the school [barracks] for the night. We're required to sleep with our clothes and boots on, just in case Joseph gets a call during the night."

"If a call does come through, Joseph and the crew members who live next door will ready the APC for duty before stopping by the school to pick us up. There is a siren mounted on the APC that Joseph will turn on to wake us just before reaching the school. We'll have just enough time to grab our rifles and web gear as we're running to the APC."

"I'll warn you now: If you don't respond quickly enough you'll be left behind, and you can expect to hear about it the next day. I know because it happened to me once."

Tim continued, "Technically speaking, we're on 24-hour alert. We have to stay near the school during that period or notify Joseph where we will be. Maj. Haddad occasionally uses us to escort Israeli brass on their routine inspections of our outposts."

"Joseph said you will spend the night in the bunker alongside the house. Tomorrow you'll be issued a cot so you can move into the school with the other foreigners."

Early the next morning, Joseph came by to see if I had survived the night. He told me Tim had arrived to take me back with him, and later on a tour of Marjayoun. When we arrived at the school where we were quartered, Tim was quick to point out they had no running water, bath or shower facilities and did all their cooking on a small electric burner that plugged into the wall.

After he asked me how long I could hold my breath, we walked outside to a bunker-like enclosure located below ground. On the stairway Tim said I could have my pick of separate stalls, consisting of just holes in the ground.

"I wouldn't use the middle one if I were you," he said. "There's a big rat that lives down there. You contract rabies out here and you'll die for sure."

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Tim told me he wouldn't mind living like a caveman if most of the Lebanese had to live under the same conditions. He explained, "The majority of the Lebanese in Marjayoun have everything an average family in the states has, including television, while we are expected to be satisfied with what we've got. We don't have the simpler conveniences of life here. It's demoralizing."

After a tour of the premises, Tim and I walked down to the market a few blocks away. Here many of the buildings resembled the ones surrounding the school. They were either full of shrapnel and bullet holes or partially demolished by continual artillery shelling. Most doorways and windows had mortar and artillery-round boxes filled with dirt stacked before them.

Tim said, "I imagine you heard all about the shelling of Marjayoun before the ceasefire went into effect. Well, it wasn't as bad as I heard the press made it out to be. Although the Palestinians would shell us off and on during the day and into the night, there were few casualties because most of the shells fell in areas that weren't heavily populated or on the outskirts of town."

On the way back to the school, Tim said, "A few days before the ceasefire, Maj. Haddad's jeep was blown all to hell when the Palestinians dropped an artillery round right into the front seat while it was parked outside his home. He must have been carrying quite a bit of ammo in the jeep because it was popping off everywhere."

At the school we were met by Joseph in the command car. He had stopped by to drop off some equipment he had picked up from the Israeli barracks up the road. As soon as we brought the gear into our room and I got my cot set up, I checked my rifle over to see what kind of condition it was in. If the cracked forearm was a sign of what was to come, I was in trouble. Breaking my weapon open, I could barely see light at the other end of the barrel through the rust and grime. Except for the frozen gas regulator, the loose rear sight and the grind marks the Israelis left when they removed their markings from the rifle, it was in better shape than I expected — which isn't saying much.

I was smart enough to have brought along a .30-caliber cleaning kit, which contained a bore brush, solvent and oil — stuff no one else had because the Israelis do not furnish the Lebanese with enough kits to go around.

Looking over the few pieces of old British-type web gear I was issued, I quickly noticed that out of the five magazines I received only two were full.



Tim said, "Ammo is something else we lack. My magazines are full only because I keep scrounging rounds off the Lebanese in the militia who always seem to have enough."

Tim gave me 40 rounds he had stashed under his cot. He and I finally resorted to removing rounds from the cloth belts inside the APC. Since most of the belts for the Brownings had rounds missing anyway, we hoped no one would notice.

After the walk to the market, I was hungry. I asked Tim where the food supply was. He snickered and led me to a room near the back of the building. In one corner were numerous cans of Israeli army rations and a box apiece of tomatoes and grapes covered by buzzing flies and bees.

"Because all the labels are printed in Hebrew, you'll just have to open a can to see what's in it. Whatever it is, I'm sure no food inspector in the states would let it pass as dog food."

I soon realized our main food staple was a canned ground meat, possibly goat, which we reluctantly called "spam." I spent more time spitting out bone chips and hair than eating.

Tim told me I'd have to develop a taste for the rations we got or starve. "There's no way on our pay you can buy the high-priced processed foods available in the market."

A militiaman's pay is roughly 480 Lebanese livre (\$95 U.S.) a month, just enough to cover the costs of cigarettes and beer until the next payday. The only Lebanese in the militia who seemed to eat and live well were the young army deserters that dribbled down from Beirut. Maj. Haddad has a long-standing commitment to accept any deserter wanting to join his forces at the same

**Crusade confronts jihad: Lebanese cedar emblem superimposed with photo of Saad Haddad flanked by devotional pictures precede occupants of McGrady's M113A1 APC.**

pay he was receiving while in the Lebanese army — about 1,300 to 1,500 livre a month for a noncommissioned officer. Many disgruntled Lebanese have deserted the Lebanese army to get away from the strict discipline and boot polishing. Now, they can do more or less what they want and still collect full pay from the Israelis.

A week went by before Joseph came by the school again, to drop off a shirt. Climbing back into his command car, he told me I would be getting the rest of my fatigues and boots soon. It looked as though I would be getting everything piece by piece.

Tim said, "You're seeing a good example of how our supply system works. When the Israelis get the equipment it sooner or later finds its way to us."

Having anticipated shortages, I brought along a lot of my own equipment, which everyone truly envied. Besides the web gear I had two sets of American cammies and a pair of jungle boots. Two months later, I finally received the balance of my fatigues — pants and boots.

The way things were shaping up, the fighting I'd been eagerly waiting for was just around the corner. By night Marjayoun's usual quiet was disrupted by the distant booms of our artillery, either firing illumination rounds over our own positions, or high-explosive (HE) round

toward Palestinian positions across the Litani River near Beaufort Castle, a Palestinian stronghold. Occasionally the UN reciprocated by firing illuminating rounds from their mortar positions over the area under siege. This was a signal for our outposts in the same area to light up the skyline and surrounding terrain with rivers of .50- and .30-caliber tracer, just to get in on the fun. I trained myself to ignore everything except artillery rounds that went directly overhead or landed close by.

Hanging our rifles and web gear on the hooks inside the "mililly" (APC), Tim and I walked the last few meters to Joseph's house for another night of duty. As we entered, the rest of our crew rose to greet us, and then returned to their own conversations.

Just as coffee was being served, "Ar-nab, Ar-nab (rabbit)," crackled over the field radio. Joseph grabbed the receiver. After a short conversation with someone at Israeli headquarters, he replaced the phone while pointing toward the APC parked just outside. Tim and I shot out of our seats and ran out, closely followed by six of our crew members.

The APC's engine came to life as we were uncovering the .50-caliber Browning and three .30-caliber machine guns. Joseph sat down on the hatch cover behind the heavy machine gun (HMG) while I manned one of the .30s and the Lebanese took up positions behind the remaining two. Another Lebanese mounted the 52mm mortar in its bracket



Ostensibly secure Outpost 302 surmounts foreground scene where TM-46 mine killed three militiamen.



Author McGrady and bereted Lebanese cohort Marcos stand watch on M4 turret with AR-15 and FN LAR.

on the rear of the deck. Within two minutes we were ready to move out.

As we neared Kiea, Joseph's voice came over the headsets, informing us we were to search for a Palestinian who had tried to infiltrate Israel by crossing the border in a powered hang glider — he had landed short inside Lebanon. We were ordered to search the area south of Bent Jbail where the glider was last seen. The Israelis spotted it in the beam of a huge searchlight they had mounted on a hill just inside Israel, from which observation post they could constantly watch a good portion of Free Lebanon, while, on the ground, IDF command cars mounted with four 7.62 MAG guns patrol the length of the Good Fence (the perimeter) checking for holes or tunnels, evidence of recent terrorist infiltration.

As we approached the military entrance at the Good Fence, a spotlight from a well-fortified bunker on the Israeli side caught us. As soon as we were identified it was turned off. Further down the road three fatigue-clad Israelis in a jeep waved us down. Ordering George, our driver, to pull off the side of the tarmac and stop, Joseph climbed down from behind the Browning and walked over to one of the Israelis, who had a CAR-15 slung over his shoulder. I recognized him as the liaison officer of our area.

Spreading a map across the hood of the jeep, Joseph listened attentively, sometimes interrupting the Israeli as he pointed to the map. I hoped the Israelis had something positive to report on the Palestinian in the glider.

Returning to the APC, Joseph said, "The Israelis are sure the glider came down somewhere near Bent Jbail, so we're going there."

The Israeli jeep pulled out and disappeared over the crest ahead. Everyone on a Browning chambered a round just in case we saw the Palestinian.

George was doing his best to catch up to the jeep. The APC threw us back and forth in the fighting compartment as the transmission was quickly shifted from low to high gear and then down-shifted again to negotiate the steep hills and the road's sharp curves, which could have overturned us if the vehicle had gone off the edge of the road.

It was an exceptionally quiet night. From the hilltops, I could see thousands of bright lights outlining the almost square kibbutzes that dotted Israel's countryside along the border. They looked peaceful but that could easily change at the whim of the Palestinians, who periodically rain Katyushas down on the *kibbutzniks* from positions just a few clicks away.

The two-lane highway turned into a dry, narrow, dirt track and dust kicked up by the jeep and the APC hung in the air, so thick we could barely see the jeep lights directly in front of us. Breathing became almost impossible.

Our headsets crackled as we approached a fork in the road. The Israelis were notifying Joseph they were going left and we were to follow the road to the right. We would meet later on.

We returned to the tarmac and within minutes saw the lights of Bent Jbail in the distance. We were now where the glider was last seen, and Joseph swept the small spotlight mounted on his Browning across the almost flat terrain

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surrounding us. We strained our eyes, hoping to glimpse the glider in the beam of the light but we couldn't see much through the fog.

We met the Israelis. They were accompanied by another jeep. I immediately recognized it as Maj. Haddad's by the bristling antenna and communications equipment in the rear. The major climbed out of the passenger side and motioned Joseph to follow him to the Israeli jeep. They conferred quietly for a short time.

With his holstered Browning 9mm slapping against his thigh, Maj. Haddad walked over to the APC and gave me a handshake. "How are you doing, Dave? How is your Arabic coming along?"

Before I could answer, he went on, "We have a Palestinian visitor tonight. He has a lot of places to hide because of the fog. It's a problem. He can see us — due to our lights — but we can't see him. Be careful."

Shaking my hand again, he walked back to his jeep and waved farewell as his driver gunned it into a U-turn back toward Marjayoun.

As soon as Joseph had seated himself behind the M2 on the commander's cupola, he told us that the major and the Israelis had decided to call off the search because of the fog. The Israelis, he said, would resume searching at first light by aircraft. Our orders were to remain in the area for a few more hours just in case we were needed.

We moved along the main road again. Joseph signaled George to pull into the Moslem town of Aainata just ahead and we roared through the streets of the small town. The 10 tons of APC seemed to disturb no one. We pulled up at the veranda of a shop and stopped. Some locals ventured from their homes and happily greeted Joseph, who was well-known as a great fighter throughout most of southern Lebanon, a reputation I doubt he deserved. Like many of his compatriots, Joseph was prone to exaggerate the number of Palestinians he killed in battle.

After we ate falafels and grapes, I looked around. Everyone except Tim and Abou was already sacked out under the veranda. Now I knew who was going to stand guard. Tim and I took up different positions in the market, which offered a good all-around view of the area in which the APC was parked and the surrounding streets. Abou decided that guard duty wasn't for him. He returned to the APC, and crashed in the fighting compartment.

By 0200 hours, I wished I'd brought along a field jacket against the chill. Retreating to the APC, I grabbed a flak



Maj. Saad Haddad, commander/"governor" of 10-mile strip along Lebanon's border with Israel, stands with author McGrady.

jacket. As I closed the heavy rear door I heard a dog barking from the other end of the alley. Signalling Tim that I was going to investigate, I moved slowly down the eerie, fog-filled alleyway, stopping only to listen for movement or to check darkened doorways with a quick beam from my flashlight.

Suddenly, metal crashed behind me from above. I wheeled around, bringing my rifle to my shoulder. Over the sights I saw a hunched-over old woman on the balcony. Lowering my rifle, I walked down the alley to a cross street. Nothing was out of the ordinary. I returned to the APC for another two hours on guard duty before any one began to stir from his sleep. Joseph was the first one up. He nudged the others awake. We climbed back aboard the mist-laden APC and within minutes were back on the road again.

At the school, Tim and I immediately hit the sack to catch up on our lost sleep — but we were awakened a few hours later by a loud explosion. It doesn't pay to over-react in front of the Lebanese. Most of them think shelling only a nuisance. The silence after the initial explosion was torn by screams and cries. We jumped from our cots and ran outside to see if we could help.

Keeping our heads down for a truly Lebanese length of time enabled us to reach the rocket crater just as a panicked mob of locals began jerking a limp, bloody militiaman from the smoking hole. Futilely Tim and I tried to clear room to examine his wounds, but the mob continued jerk and drag the moan-

## AMERICAN MERC

A professional soldier-for-hire for the last five years, David McGrady's wide experience and his \$95 monthly salary in Lebanon may help to correct some merc myths.

His first mercenary "tour" was to have been with the Rhodesian Light Infantry, but a sympathetic recruiting officer in Salisbury explained what his position as a white mercenary in the Rhodesian army was likely to become. Loath to return to the States to rot in front of Monday Night Football, McGrady signed on as a roving bodyguard for the Rhodesian Ministry of Health, protecting survey and service teams in the bush.

Three months without action convinced him that health was probably not his line of work, so McGrady followed the footsteps of the easily bored Tom Horn and offered his services to cattle ranchers plagued by rustlers and terrorists. Ranch security in Matabeleland was better work, but it inevitably led to the sort of work McGrady was most suited for: bounty hunting. McGrady acquired a quick few thousand dollars from government bounties on terr corpses in nocturnal escapades, but Ian Smith's negotiations for free elections and the

ing victim up to a small compact car. Three Lebanese immediately jumped in the back, but others of the mob pushed them out and lay the militiaman on the back seat. Then they realized no one could care for him during the ride, so they seated some more people in the back and lay the wounded man on their laps. Tim and I looked at him. Black-powder burns showed his closeness to the point of impact. He wouldn't make it to the hospital.

The next day we heard that he had made it, but had died anyway, with 36 pints of other people's blood run through him. He had been burning brush when he discovered a "dud" 81mm mortar round half buried in the dirt. He ran some playing children away from it and was moving off himself, when the shell cooked off.

Later, unable to sleep, Tim and I decided to walk down to our favorite watering hole a few blocks away. We were friendly with the Moslem owners, Abou Hammad and his wife, and had been given credit whenever the need arose — which was often. Grabbing two beers from the frig, we made ourselves comfortable on one of the old sofas leaning against the wall. Abou shuffled out the house doorway, puffing on a cigarette. Although he spoke only Arabic, we exchanged pleasantries. He offered us a cigarette and then sat beside me.

We were working on a second beer,

discovery that the terrorists had put money on his head lent force to McGrady's arguments for leaving Rhodesia.

Late in 1978 McGrady was back in The World long enough to find that there *still* wasn't anything interesting on television. He opened negotiations with the Somoza government, concluded a contract and was ready to leave for Nicaragua. His tickets had been booked for the day after the president of Nicaragua left for comfortable exile in the United States.

All dressed up and nowhere else to go, McGrady flew back to Africa. Bounty hunting for ranchers had been good in Rhodesia, and should be good in South West Africa, except that he picked the wrong year. Drought had left few cattle worth protecting and there was no work.

Giving the lie to the saw that there's no rest for the wicked, McGrady returned to the States to wait for another war. Lebanon hadn't been his idea of a real war from the start, but it was the only one he had. So he went to meet Saad Haddad in Lebanon.

This is the next installment in the saga of a modern soldier of fortune.

—Bill Guthrie



Gungnights view from Free Lebanese outpost overlooking Litani River Valley.

when a local kid walked up with a box of empty .50-caliber cases and links to sell Abou. After weighing them on the scale, Abou and the boy disappeared into the back room. A few minutes later a pleased kid emerged with a small bag of candy. To make ends meet, most shop owners buy spent cartridges and resell them in bulk quantities for a sizable profit. Because of the market for brass, some Lebanese go through a lot of .50-caliber ammo on outpost duty in order to empty some cases.

Back at the school, we ran into Dan, who looked worried. He told us that Nuef, the only Lebanese living with us, had brought an undetonated 3.5 "Super Bazooka" round into the school. We went to his room at the back of the building and saw it lying on the floor near his cot. It looked really beat up. A number of wires were hanging from the tail section, and there was a stubby pin still protruding from the side. We did our best to convince Nuef to get rid of it, but our pleas fell on deaf ears.

Later that day we spoke to Joseph, but all he would say was he already knew about it and it didn't pose a big enough threat to warrant further action. That was easy for him to say since he lived a half kilometer from the school.

Nuef was as irritating as he was dangerous. He woke everyone at dawn by playing Arab music at full-volume over his radio. Maurice threatened to shoot both Nuef and the radio if he didn't knock it off. The burly Frenchman had already shot one radio when he was in the Legion in Algeria. Fortunately for Nuef, Maurice moved into a small house before the matter got out of hand.

To receive mail we had to go to the market in Marjayoun and pay two pounds per letter to the shop owner for having picked them up at the Good Fence. On the way to pick up our mail,

Tim told me that Joseph is a dedicated communist, and his father — who lives just behind the school — studied in Moscow when he was a boy. Joseph isn't fighting the Palestinians because they are backed by Russia; he hates them because they wiped out the village he once lived in. "I hope you never told Joseph that you were here to kill communists," Tim said. "I don't think it would have gone over too good."

Outpost duty came sooner than I expected. Just before dusk an APC pulled up to take me to Beaufort Castle. Living conditions at the outpost were deplorable; rotting food — covered in flies, bees and yellow jackets — was scattered everywhere. Looking over the embankments of our position I saw heaps of brown tomatoes, rotting grapes, empty ration cans and ammo boxes lying among piles of human excrement. I quickly learned to watch where I walked — rather difficult after dark.

Finding that no one in my group could speak English except for Hassan, a former school teacher from Beirut who now lived in Deir Mimas, I engaged him in a lengthy conversation to learn something about the others with whom I would be serving one week out of every month. As we walked the top of the embankments, Hassan, clutching his rosary beads, pointed out the Palestinian positions on the hillsides to the north and along the mountain ridge to Beaufort. The road at the base of the mountain had sections destroyed by Israeli aircraft to disrupt the Palestinians' route of supply. Hassan placed special emphasis on never firing in the direction of the UN outpost in the valley between us and the castle. Even though Maj. Haddad despises the UNIFIL forces — because they curtail our operations and not those of the Palestinians — we were under orders to keep things peaceful, at least for the time being.

The last stop on my tour of our position was the flimsy, three-sided, corrugated shed that was to serve as our sleeping quarters. Stepping inside I saw five broken-down cots and a few loaves of moldy bread lying in one corner.

"You better get your gear from the APC and grab a cot before the others take them over," Hassan said. "Unless you prefer to sleep out under the stars."

Remembering the condition of the ground, it didn't take long to decide I wanted to sack out inside, even though most of the legs on the cots and all of the walls were full of jagged shrapnel holes. I stashed my web gear under a cot and threw my mat on top to indicate it was taken. Hassan and I walked outside so he could introduce me to the others who were milling about.

They were a motley bunch. Religious crosses dangled from chains around their necks and they were armed with an assortment of weapons: Two carried M16s (souvenirs of their days with the

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Lebanese army) and another had a Rumanian AK-47 (one of the many weapons the Israelis gave the Christian forces after one of their gunboats sank a Palestinian trawler running guns and ammunition along the coast of Lebanon. After the introductions, as an act of friendship they offered me the food they had brought from home for themselves. Because I had missed my supper and it would have been an insult to refuse, I graciously accepted something from each one so no one would be offended.

As I was finishing the last bit of food, one of the Lebanese shuffled past me toward the APC. The next time I glanced in that direction he was returning, carrying an Israeli-marked ammo box. He motioned me to follow him. We proceeded to the metal shed where everyone else had already gathered, leisurely sitting on their cots, eating or smoking. Placing the ammo box in the center of the floor, Tony, our commander, pulled a combat knife from his rucksack and began to cut the cloth belt bulging with shiny .30-caliber cartridges into equal lengths to be divided up among us. I was surprised that my quota could easily fill all my empty magazines with some left over. Finally, I solved the mystery of



how the Lebanese got their ammunition.

We tried to start the Sherman to warm the engine up, but someone on the other outpost crew had run the battery down by leaving the radio on in the turret, so we ended up jumping it off the battery in the APC. Then we returned to the shed and shared a bottle of arrack (Lebanese liqueur), and the Lebanese talked to me, using Hassan as interpreter.

**Israeli-supplied American materiel equips Haddad's militia. GI M38 quarter-ton light vehicle (Jeep) and M113A1 APCs with Lebanese cedar militia emblem patrol "Good Fence."**

**Turret reversed and gun in rest, M4 Sherman against background of town of Kiea.**



As darkness slowly enveloped us, Tony assigned everyone a time slot to stand guard duty. Hassan and I were given the 0100 to 0300 watch.

Hoping to catch some shuteye before going on duty, I climbed onto my cot and wrapped up in a blanket, anticipating another cool night. Between the wind rattling the metal walls of our shelter and artillery fire in the distance, sleep was damn near impossible. No sooner had I slipped off when I felt myself being shaken awake by Tony, who (not so gently the second time around) tried to rouse the others from their cots despite their moans and groans.

Hassan explained, "Marjayoun is being shelled again, so Tony wants us to sleep in the APC where we'll be safe from shrapnel. He'll wake us when it's time to go on duty."

Stumbling through the dark we packed ourselves like sardines into the fighting compartment of the APC. I fitted myself into a space between the bench seat and wall with hardly enough room to turn over in; soon the air became stuffy and stale. I began to wish I had taken my chances outside.

Surprisingly, I fell right off to sleep again. Awakened some time later, I crawled out the door and almost fell as my feet disappeared in the foot-deep red dust that covered everything. Wiping the sleep from my eyes, I noticed Hassan was already up and making coffee from

the water in his canteen. I grabbed my FN from a hook inside the APC and walked over to the aging Israeli-made MK-50 Sherman tank (equipped with a French 75mm gun, a strong 460 Cummings diesel engine and a modified suspension with the wide tracks of the HVSS-type). Climbing up on the turret I positioned myself behind the .50-caliber Browning HMG.

By then the fog was so heavy that visibility was limited to less than 20 meters: a perfect night for a land assault against our position — assuming the Palestinians were capable of reading a compass. By 0130 hours the fog had lifted enough for me to see the dark silhouette of Beaufort Castle.

Halfway through the night Tony became edgy when the lights suddenly went out in the UN observation outpost below Beaufort. Thinking the Palestinians had knocked out their generator before advancing on us in the dark, Tony ordered us to rake the surrounding terrain with automatic fire, hoping we'd shake the Palestinians up so they'd break and return fire. Then we'd be able to concentrate our firepower in one area.

Mistaking a few large rolls of barbed wire — lying 30 meters below our position — for Palestinians, one Lebanese emptied half a magazine into them before he realized what he was doing. The only other thing we accomplished was to set two large grass fires on the nearby

hillsides with tracer from the Browning.

Although the atmosphere was tense, the rest of the night remained calm, except when the Palestinians fired a few tracers in our direction. They fell short in the valley.

At least once an hour Hassan walked the top of the embankments to fire a few rounds into the dark — to show the Palestinians we hadn't fallen asleep.

As the sun rose over the horizon, a couple of the Lebanese started to pick up spent cartridge cases from the ground; the others began to gather some of their personal belongings, readying themselves for the trip back to Marjayoun. Hassan and I would hold the fort until they returned around dusk.

By mid-morning the sun forced us to take shelter under a small metal lean-to. We spent most of the morning talking and listening to Arab music on a small transistor radio one of the young Lebanese had left behind. By noon we were nearly unconscious from heat, so we decided to take turns catnapping while the other stood guard. When it was my turn to sleep I couldn't because of the sonic booms from Israeli aircraft

*Continued on page 72*

**Snout of Browning .50 pokes over edge of Outpost 302 berms ready to sweep slopes descending to Litani River. M113A1 snuggles behind earth walls to foil line-of-sight RPGs.**







# NOW SEE THE SAW

## SOF Looks at the M249

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



ON 1 February 1982 the M249 machine gun was officially adopted (type classified) by the United States Army. That America now has the finest, most reliable weapon ever placed into its small-arms inventory is due in large measure to a group of dedicated and impressively professional small-arms technologists at the U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command (ARRADCOM) in Dover, N.J., and Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. Although not as startling or dramatic to either the media or public as the space-shuttle program, this major achievement will have far more important immediate consequences for our troops in the field.

The M249 5.56mm SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) will be primarily deployed in the infantry fire teams of the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. It will replace the bipod-mounted M16A1 AR (automatic rifle) at the squad level and selected M60 GPMGs (general-purpose machine guns) in non-infantry units. The two fire teams in the rifle squad will each be issued an M249.

There has been an urgent need for a truly efficient squad automatic weapon. The obsolete Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) should have been phased out in the mid-1930s. The BAR's deficiencies were many. It lacked a quick-change barrel (finally corrected in the post-war Belgian version), had a magazine capacity of only 20 rounds, positioned the magazine well in an awkward location which slowed magazine changes, all too frequently broke extractors, possessed a gas system which fouled far too readily, was clumsy to adjust and clean, was a poor performer in cold environments and weighed 19.4 pounds empty.

The M14A1 rifle with its bipod, front hand grip, pistol-grip stock and muzzle stabilizer was supposed to replace the BAR in the squad-automatic role. Chambered for the 7.62mm NATO round and weighing only 13 pounds loaded, the M14A1 proved incapable of accurate full-automatic fire. It illustrates the dilemma of those who insist on the use of .30-caliber cartridges in light squad weapons. If you want full-automatic capability with .30-caliber cartridges, the laws of physics will dictate a user-objectionable weapon weight.

**M249 with 200-round plastic assault pack attached. Demonstrator wears U.S. Army experimental ballistics helmet.**

Use of the bipod-mounted M16A1 proved unsatisfactory in the sustained-fire role. Experiments were also conducted in the employment of the M60 GPMG at squad level. As eventually evolved, the M60 is a totally successful medium machine gun. However, at 23 pounds unloaded, its debilitating effect on squad-level maneuverability was unacceptable.

During the period of 1972-74, the Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) Project directed its attention to the muddy waters of caliber experimentation. The best known cartridge to emerge from this work was the 6x45mm XM732 steel-cased round which utilized a 106-grain projectile and had a muzzle velocity of 2,500 fps.

By October 1976, the 5.56mm SAW program was initiated with a Material Need Document (MND), which was later revised into a Joint Service Operational Requirement (JSOR), endorsed by the Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. This JSOR described the need for a one-man portable, lightweight machine gun capable of providing effective suppressive fire out to a range of 1,000 meters and defeating all anticipated types of body armor.

The M249 machine gun was selected from a competitive evaluation of four candidate systems.

The XM106 was developed by the Ballistics Research Laboratory at Aberdeen, Md. It is essentially a modified M16 firing from the open bolt, with a heavy, quick-change barrel, improved sight radius, using standard 30-round magazines or a riveted, spaced assembly of three magazines.

The XM248 was the second system. It was initially developed by the Rodman Labs at Rock Island Arsenal as a 6mm weapon, and then turned over to Ford Aerospace Communications Corp. for further design improvement and conversion to caliber 5.56mm. This unusual entry is belt-fed with rotary drive and operates by means of a unique dual gas system with a three-lug rotating bolt.

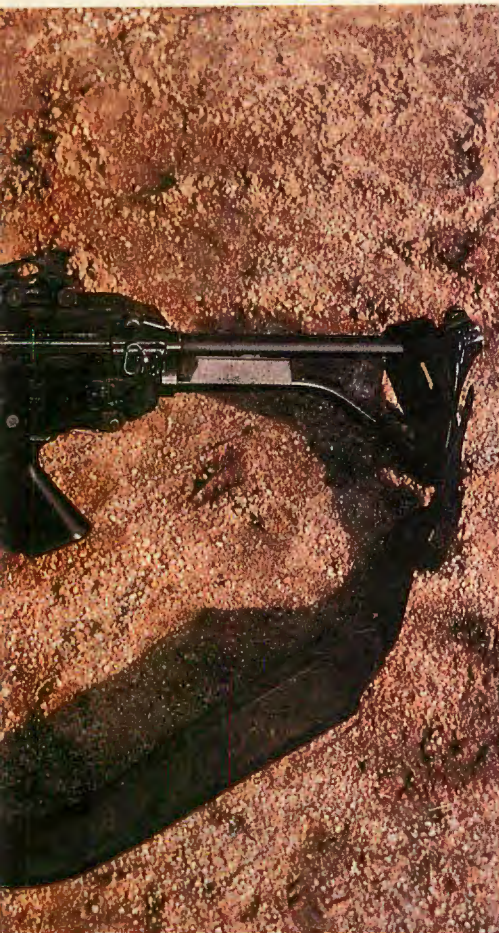
The third system was the SM262 produced by Heckler and Koch. The XM262 makes use of the usual H&K roller-locked, retarded blowback action. The belt system is sprocket-driven. It has a quick-change barrel and can be fired in either the semi or full-automatic modes.

The new 5.56mm XM249 SAW was developed by Fabrique Nationale of Belgium and first unveiled in 1974. Known in Europe as the FN Minimi, its development took place well before the NATO 5.56mm Second Caliber



**ABOVE:** Handled barrel assembly helps hot-barrel change. **RIGHT:** Operator's eye view of open SAW feed cover. **BELOW:** M249 spits links in full-auto fire.





**M249 5.56 SAW will fire M855 5.56mm ball cartridge using Belgian SS109 62-grain projectile at cyclic rate of fire of 750-950 rpm.**



**ABOVE: SAW front sight and gas regulator. BELOW: Textured, curved butt pad.**



Standardization Agreement (STANAG 4172) to assure commonality of ammunition. It was a calculated risk that has paid off handsomely for FN and once again thrusts the company into the forefront of military small-arms technology.

Included in the type classification action of 1 February 1982 were the important new ammunition components of the SAW system. The M855 5.56mm ball cartridge uses the Belgian SS109 bullet which weighs 62 grains and contains a hardened-steel penetrator frontal core and lead base encased in a copper jacket. The bullet is green-tipped as this is the new NATO color code for this type of ammunition. This improved projectile requires a rifling twist of 1 turn in 7 inches to stabilize the bullet in flight, as opposed to the old M193 bullet which needs a twist of 1 turn in 12 inches.

The new M856 5.56mm tracer cartridge uses the new longer L110 projectile which weighs 64 grains and encases the tracer element as well as the lead core in a gilded metal-clad steel jacket, allowing for an unprecedented 900-meter burn-out. This was a much criticized area in the past.

The M27 link, like its Stoner predecessor, is a scaled-down M13 link (used with the M60 and FN MAG). The experimental XM27 links were first made by Borg Warner and later by Wells Marine Inc. I have been informed that a quantity of them were sent to the Navy SEALs for use with their Stoner 63 machine guns and that they did not work well (probably due to the Navy's almost worn-out Stoners rather than the new links).

For at least the first year FN will be supplying the ammunition which will be packaged and linked in a 200-round plastic assault pack with a ratio of four ball to one tracer.

The testing which resulted in selection of the M249 was an extensive and awesome process. A detailed examination of the SAW trials underlines the user-oriented nature of the test procedures.

The SAW trials commenced with a visual, non-destructive examination of all four candidate systems. Measurements were taken and parts-interchangeability tests were conducted. All four candidate weapons went through the entire test program. The guns were cleaned every 2,000 rounds.

Cook-off tests followed and the rate of fire was specified at 85 rounds per minute without spontaneous detonation of ammunition in the chamber. While three of the weapons fire from the open-bolt position, the possibility of the bolt going into



**M249 SAW utilizing M16 30-rd. magazine.**

battery with a broken firing pin is conceivable. The machine guns were fired with and without lubricant and also tested for noise level. The position disclosure test examined the flash and smoke characteristics and the ejection power of each system.

The weapons were then immersed in salt water for a period of time, while loaded, and fired without cleaning. The guns were also placed in a temperature humidity cabinet for 10 days — to simulate a tropical environment — and again fired without cleaning. The mud tests were of two types. First the guns were dunked in the mud bath, quickly wiped off and fired. Then the weapons were dunked again and allowed to dry for four hours. After the mud was hurriedly chipped off, the guns were fired. In both instances only the muzzles were taped.

Two kinds of sand and dust tests were conducted. In the static test the weapons were laid in the material and then fired. The guns were fired with magazine and belt changes while the test medium was blown on them during the dynamic sand and dust test.

As rain washes away lubricants, a water spray test was held, followed by an icing test. The guns were also fired at extreme temperatures: 155°F and -50°F. The sustained-firing test involved firing 700 rounds in five minutes at varying rates of fire: 200 rpm for two minutes and 100 rpm for three minutes.

A ballistic performance test tracked the projectiles by radar. The trajectory of the new SS109 bullet is approximately the same as that of the M80 (7.62mm NATO) ball projectile. The accuracy and dispersion tests demonstrated that the considerable performance gap in crosswind effect between the 7.62mm M80 bullet and the old 5.56mm M193 projectile has been markedly narrowed by the new SS109 bullet. Results of the penetration tests were outstanding. The SS109 5.56mm bullet easily outperforms the *M80 7.62mm*, as it will penetrate the U.S. Army steel helmet at 1,100 meters.



**The old and the new: 1) Old M196 tracer projectile as used in M16A1 AR; 2) new L110 tracer projectile as used in M249 SAW; 3) L110 Tracer in cross section, showing large amount of trace element and gilded metal-clad steel jacket which allows 900-meter tracer burn; 4) SS109 ball projectile cross section (with hardened-steel penetrator and lead base) which allows penetration of U.S. steel helmet at 1,100 meters; 5) SS109 ball projectile with green-tip color code; 6) current issue M193 ball projectile.**

The endurance test examined reliability and durability. Reliability is a user measurement of the mean rounds between failures. There are three categories of failures: Class 1, Immediately Clearable, i.e., the gunner can clear the stoppage in 10 seconds or less by a simple action, such as re-charging the weapon; Class 2, Clearable, the stoppage will take longer than 10 seconds but less than 10 minutes to clear by the operator and may involve some disassembly and use of the cleaning-kit tools; and Class 3, Severe, a stoppage the operator cannot clear by himself, such as broken parts, and which requires an armorer. The candidate weapons were judged against minimum acceptable level of reliability and the so-called "Blue Sky," or hoped-for Specified Levels. With a 95-percent confidence factor that the next specimen would perform at the same plateau as the test gun, the XM249 exceeded the Specified Reliability Levels in Class 1 and 2 failures and came close to the Specified Levels in Class 3 failures. A 50,000-round receiver life is expected. The Minimi's overall performance was outstanding and it was the clear winner of the SAW trials.

A subsequent extensive Operational Test (OT1) of the XM249 was held at Ft. Benning, Ga. The results reinforced the SAW trial conclusions. The XM249's performance was so superlative that the Army decided there was no need for the normal follow-on OT2. The only remaining critical OT issue was the hit capability of the XM249. To address this, the Marines, using a platoon of their own operators, conducted exhaustive hit-probability experiments at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md.

The results far exceeded their expectations and, in general, the Army and USMC acceptance of their new squad automatic has been enthusiastic.

The M249 is gas-operated. When combined with a regulator, only gas operation can effectively control the available power to the specific needs of the moment. The M249's rotary gas regulator is a simplification of the FN MAG's regulator. It has two positions, normal and adverse, and is hand-adjustable. The adverse position increases the cyclic rate somewhat and it can be expected that fire-team leaders will all too often opt for this alternative. If this is done, however, it can be expected that reliability will deteriorate due to the increased cyclic rate. The only real disadvantage to gas systems is an increase in fouling over recoil-operated weapons — a problem compounded by the current emphasis on the use of ball-type powders. Ball propellants also generate more muzzle flash; however, they usually burn cooler than IMR-type powders, an acceptable trade-off, except when attempting to ignite tracer elements.

In normal operation, the M249's piston is forced to the rear by gas tapped from the barrel's ports near the muzzle end. The bolt carrier begins its rearward motion with the bolt itself still locked into the barrel extension. The chamber pressure has dropped to an acceptable level by the time a cam in the bolt carrier rotates and unlocks the bolt. Gas escaping from the system is directed upward into the atmosphere, not downward as with the M60, which is notorious for its position-disclosing dust swirls.

Extraction problems have plagued 5.56mm weapons. The M249's remarkable reliability is largely a consequence of an extraction process which is initiated only after its rotary bolt has unlocked. This delay allows the case to contract and release its frictional grip on the chamber walls. The two rails welded to the receiver walls on which the bolt and carrier ride throughout the extent of their travel also contribute significantly to the smoothness of operation and the unique absence of stoppages and parts breakage.

Rotary bolts have been in use for some time. Early examples include the little-known Czech ZK 420S rifle in 7.92mm and the Johnson M1941 and M1944 light machine guns. The M60 GPMG, the M16 and the famed Kalashnikov assault rifles also utilize rotary bolts. In most of these systems the bolt is locked into lugs in the barrel extension rather than the receiver, as is the case with the M249: It results in more positive head



**Ammunition will be packaged and linked in 200-round plastic assault pack with ratio of four ball to one tracer.**





**Deadly accuracy from reclining bipod fire. M249 in full-auto with 200-round plastic assault pack.**

### M249 SQUAD AUTOMATIC SPECIFICATIONS

**WEIGHTS:** M249 Machine Gun (with sling and Cleaning kit) . . . . . 15.5 lbs.  
 200 rounds of ammunition (linked in assault pack) . . . . . 6.4 lbs.  
 30 rounds of ammunition (loaded in M16 magazine) . . . . . 1.0 lb.  
**BARREL LENGTH:** . . . . . 18.3 inches  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** . . . . . 41.4 inches  
**OPERATION:** Gas, with two-position regulator.  
**CYCLIC RATE OF FIRE:** 750-950 rpm.  
**METHOD OF LOCKING:** Rotating bolt head.  
**RIFLING:** 6 grooves Right Hand; 1 turn in 7 inches.



space and allows cheaper, lighter construction of the receiver. The M249's steel receiver utilizes welded joints rather than pins and riveted construction.

Innovative features abound on the M249, not the least of which is its amazing capacity to accept either disintegrating link belts or the M16 30-round box magazine without modification. It is intended that riflemen in the squad will turn over magazines to the M249 gunner only in an emergency. When a belt is in the feed tray it covers the magazine port. Likewise, an inserted magazine protrudes outward to warn against simultaneous insertion of a belt. Under normal circumstances the M249 gunner will move out with 600 rounds of ammunition, 200 in the assault pack attached to the weapon and two additional 200-round assault packs attached to his web gear.

Two hundred rounds of linked 5.56mm weigh about six pounds as against 12 pounds for 200 rounds of linked 7.62mm. That's an 18-pound difference in a 600-round load, plus an additional seven-pound saving in weapon weight over the M60. Although this may be scoffingly dismissed by gun writers who continue to advocate .30-caliber weapons, anyone who has humped the boonies will breathe a sigh of relief.

The M249 has a chrome-lined bore and a three-second quick-change barrel. Unlike the M60, the M249's feed cover can be closed with the bolt in any position along the feed cam. The tubular-aluminum skeleton stock and its folding wire buttstrap are weight-saving contributions to the gun's comfortable 15.5 pounds. The M249's push-button safety and elimination of the semiautomatic mode simplify the sear mechanism. A loaded belt indicator has been provided for night use and the rear sight is adjustable to 1,000 meters.

At present the M249 uses the standard FN FAL pistol grip, but this will be altered in the production models. The grip angle will not be as sharp, the bottom flare will be eliminated, a finger swell will be incorporated below the trigger guard and the current U.S. lubricant bottle will be inserted.

The M249 can be fired from the M122 tripod, using the M60 pintle and a different adaptor for the T&E

**M249 SAW with feed cover open and stock folded down. FN FAL pistol grip will be altered in new production model.**

(Traverse & Elevation) mechanism. The M122 tripod is of course the old Browning M1919A4/A6 M2 tripod modified for use with the M60 after the mount originally intended for the M60 (the M91) self-destructed during the Aberdeen tests. While not entirely satisfactory, the M122 tripod is already in the inventory and, in any event, the M249 is expected to see little use in this configuration. The M249 can also be mounted on the FN MAG tripod, a far sturdier affair.

The Marines expect to issue each M249 gunner with one spare barrel. At this time the Army has no plans to issue spare barrels at the squad level.

During the tests which led to its adoption, 29 different XM249s had more than 500,000 rounds fired through them. Unlike most gun writers, who can tell you everything you will ever need to know about a particular weapon after firing less than 100 rounds through it, it would be more than presumptuous of me to imply that observing and firing 500 to 1,000 rounds through the M249 in one afternoon could possibly generate any really significant conclusions. The weapon I fired had already more than 10,000 rounds fired through it. The only time this vicious little jewel stopped cranking was during belt changes. I encountered no malfunctions or stoppages of any kind.

I fired the M249 from the prone, kneeling and standing positions and from the hip assault position, using the M60 padded sling (which will be issued with the gun). Its handling characteristics border on the phenomenal. While less than 22 pounds with a loaded 200-round assault pack, the standing position is nevertheless an expediency measure only. The weapon is far more comfortable to fire for more extended periods of time in the kneeling and hip assault positions. When down in the prone position, watch out! It's deadly. The hit capability is literally astounding. With a cyclic rate of 750 to 950 rpm (dependent upon ammunition, gas regulator setting and degree of fouling present), it was difficult for me to tick off bursts of less than three to four rounds. However, the hit probability is so high that the Army actually recommends five- to six-round bursts.

Although I have fired more than several hundred different types of automatic weapons, I have never been more impressed. The M249 is quite obviously the right choice at the right time by a pretty damn righteous group of people. The M249 should be in the hands of the troops some time between December 1983 and March 1984. Thank God. ☒

# AMERICAN SEAWAYS ADVENTURES

## Part 2: Staying Afloat in the Maritime Market

by William P. Mote



Smaller coastal freighter hauls containerized loads around U.S. littoral. Photo: Skyfotos

*PART 1: The merchant marine is made up of neither merchants nor marines but it certainly represents one of the oldest and most steadily employed classes of men who confront danger for money. In the modern merchant marine, ranks are modelled on the navy, but then again, the navy may have originally been modelled on these ancient sea rovers. Pay is higher than in the navy, crews are smaller, contracts shorter, food better and service more diverse.*

*This all sounds easy and profitable. It can be lucrative, but work in the merchant marine is rarely easy. Each man does the work of several naval sailors, and most who do well and serve long are highly trained specialists. The first step in qualification as a real merchant sailor is the coveted "Z-card."*

*Nearly impossible to obtain without connections or prior naval service, the*

*Z-card is the merchant seaman's ticket to adventure and profit, but it is only basic admission to the profession. To advance and guarantee employment, the sailor needs to acquire other qualifications, diplomas and certifications, but the Z-card virtually guarantees admission to the many schools and programs for the able and ambitious sailor.*

*Nearly all of this applies to deep-sea sailing, but similar rules and requirements apply to shipping in American waters, as Part 2 of this three-part article shows.*

**A**LTHOUGH some unions run entry-rating programs, the largest deck-officer union, The International Organization of Masters, Mates and Pilots (IOMM&P), has none. What it does have is a magnificent complex called the Maritime Institute of Technology and

Graduate Studies, located at 5700 Hammonds Ferry Road, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090.

The courses are strictly for those who already hold deck licenses. Although most of the students are members of the IOMM&P, the institute has had classes attended by foreign officers, including some Soviets during detente days. The school, located near Baltimore, offers courses on collision-avoidance radar simulators, cargo operations of tankers, automated bridge-console operation, and a license-advancement program. Although none of these courses — nor the school itself — are of interest to the prospective seaman seeking a Z-card, I have listed them to emphasize that — as with engineers, radio operators and unlicensed personnel — once in the industry, training for advancement is readily available to the individual sailor.

The oldest continuous maritime-training school in the United States is the Merchant Marine School of the Seaman's Church Institute (SCI), 15 State Street, New York, NY 10004. This is not an entry program; admittance presupposes having papers and enough service to be eligible for an officer's test. The school teaches both deck and engineering officers and is aimed toward upgrading of licenses. It also has courses for small-boat-operator licenses.

The SCI school has additional courses in fire fighting, CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation), electronic navigation and gyrocompass maintenance. Among its students are many foreigners who are in the process of upgrading their Liberian and Panamanian tickets as well as Americans seeking U.S. Coast Guard-issued licenses. It is not directly connected with any union and therefore does not obligate its students to sail under specific union, company or national colors. The student pays for his training but gets a break on his room cost if he decides to stay in the club.

The same school has a certificate program in maritime transportation. This is the FDR School, at the same address, whose evening program is aimed more at the individual on the shore side of the maritime world. Courses cover basic shipping practices, maritime law and container port operation, and specialized courses such as ship stability and oceanography. Though primarily for shore personnel, the program is open to sailors too. In fact, seamen are encouraged to attend any of the courses and rank or rate is of no consequence.

This training is valuable for the seaman for several reasons. First, he learns to understand the problems faced by shore personnel in shipping-company offices and, second, if he ever wishes to seek a job ashore, his certificate would carry weight on an employment application. Also, attending this program lets one meet many people directly involved in shipping. Contacts are all-valuable in the seaman's world, and this school is a good place to make them.

So far, I have stayed mainly on the deep-sea side of shipping: the "big" ships. I have presented the problem of getting the Z-card honestly. There is, however, another way to go.

The United States has a vast river, lake and inland-waterway system. The so-called "tow" boat is really a pusher; strings of barges are pushed by large vessels for hundreds of miles. As the tows proceed they occasionally stop and, while still officially underway, hover in midstream as smaller towboats remove or add barges to the strings. All along the waterway system, small fleets of these boats operate on a local level. Some of the large fleets are unionized; the majority of the smaller ones are not.

As with sea-going companies, even the

non-union towboat operator is reluctant to give the "walk-in" a letter of commitment. He wants experienced personnel — and rightly so. The National River Academy (NRA), P.O. Drawer 827, Helena, AR 72343, comes in here.

The NRA is a private school which receives some support from various riverboat operating companies. It will help its graduates obtain employment with one of these companies upon successful completion of any entry-level deckhand-training program. The graduate is committed neither to sail with any specific company nor to sail for any set length of time. He is not tied to a union. And, since he must pay his own tuition, he is not obligated to a company or union. He could legally go through the program,

ashore is — sometimes — a paid vacation. In other companies, vacation pay is cranked into the salary paid when on the boat. Possibly the best thing about river work is the excellent food. Quarters are adequate but the diesels, pounding a few yards away, take a bit of getting used to when one tries to sleep off watch.

The NRA has the all-important entry training as well as advanced training for tankerman, steersman, mate and, ultimately, pilot. Entry requirements are a minimum age of 18 and the ability to pass a physical which includes X-rays of the lower spine. Schooling runs for two weeks and is on the regular six-hours-on/off schedule the trainee will be working on a riverboat. Safety training is emphasized and first-aid courses are given.



Freedom of the seas exists even in Old World canals: Dutch canal boat moves with new motors along old horse towpaths. Photo: W. P. Mote

receive his Z-card and training for river work and then go into the deep-sea trade via the union or oil-company route.

In actual practice, after receiving river training, it is more likely that the new deckhand would remain in the river trade for some time. Its benefits are in the short terms of duty, usually on a 10-day on/off or a two-week-on/off system. (No six-month assignments to the Arabian Gulf run here.) If assignment is to a long-haul boat, pushing the big strings, the deckhand will be under-way most of the time. If to a small boat working out of a grain port, he could conceivably be home every night.

The facts are: Watches, when underway, are stood on a six-hour-on/off schedule. Note this well: no eight-hour days as in ocean ships, but a 12-hour day (with the extra four, in most cases, not being paid at an overtime rate). Time

Actual practice on deck, on a real towboat, puts classroom training into use. Since crew turnover is high in towboat companies — a rate of 90 percent for deckhands, according to NRA — job placement is relatively easy for the school trainee upon graduation.

We must also consider harbor tugs, the boats which help the sea-going ships dock and undock and which move barges in harbor areas. Since most of these are union-contracted boats, it is difficult to find employment on them unless the applicant has his Z-card and some experience.

A few small harbor and river-run tankers still exist, but employment on them is not available to the inexperienced. Most coastal passenger ships are no longer running, *although* cruise operators such as Circle Line and Day Line of New York City have some openings in



the summer. Ferry boats run by cities and states are another possible source of jobs, but, in many areas, the small craft are family-run and outsiders will find them more restrictive than any union.

Even faster growing than river trade is the off-shore oil industry. Places such as Venice and Morgan City, La., look like a combination of a staging area for an invasion and a gold-rush boom town: High-speed "swift-boat"-class crew carriers, engines screaming, pass tugs and supply boats; sea planes and helicopters vie for air space. If you want a place that gives the feeling of "here is where it's at," rather than quiet days playing catch on a tanker deck, or of watching the towns go slowly by as you chug up the Mississippi, this apparent — but actually well-organized — pandemonium may be what you want.

Jobs abound. If you have the Z-card you can ship. As on the river, it's a couple of weeks on and a couple off, and as far as the watches go, the work comes in bursts and can be physically demanding. Most jobs are non-union. Pay is good. Again, as on all small ships, the food is excellent.

Offshore Research Service, P.O. Box 2606 NSU, Thibodaux, LA 70301, is neither a training service nor an employer. It is, however, the definitive source of information on employment opportunities in this phase of the mer-

chant marine and it publishes a book on the subject as well as a list of companies, complete with phone numbers. This service is highly recommended.

Some of these ships — and ships they are — are more than 200 feet long and have well over 10,000 horsepower. Wages for ordinary seamen are similar to those on the river, in the neighborhood of \$50 to \$65 a day, sometimes better. Overseas jobs exist for many of the operators, and these assignments carry extra pay and extended vacations when the contract, which lasts six months or so, has ended.

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## Off-shore Oil Ships Sail The Seven Seas

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Large oil well-drilling ships such as those of SEDCO of Houston work all over the world. Contracts here are usually for two years, with duty being a month on and a month ashore. Chartered aircraft carry the crews to nearby bases and helicopters take them to the ships. At the end of the month, sailors are returned to the States at company expense. Pay is high, food excellent with round-the-clock feeding due to the con-

tinuous drilling work. Employment is restricted in the entry grades and, of course, these companies do not operate training programs. Generally they are non-union operations.

Shipping on the Great Lakes includes tugs, barges and large-bulk carriers. Most of these ships carry coal, coke and iron-ore pellets. They are owned by both steel companies and independent shipping firms. Each of the vessels, though of sea-going size, is specially-built for use on these inland waters. The deck house is directly forward, right up on the bow, and there are other accommodations aft, over the engine room. Crews are smaller than on deep-sea craft. The crewmen are often hired directly by the steamship companies, but some companies are unionized. The trend is toward unionization. Some of the ships are very old, compared to ocean shipping, and a few are still coal-burners.

There is a "season" on the lakes. When they freeze up, shipping stops. In recent years, concentrated efforts by American Coast Guard and Canadian government ice-breakers have extended the "season" through most of the year. It is believed that soon shipping will be year-round.

To my knowledge, no special training exists for lake entry ratings, and it is doubtful that letters of commitment could be easily obtained in that area. Lake shipping remains a specialized field in which automated, modernized vessels are just beginning to replace the elderly American and Canadian fleets.

The pay on American flag ships is excellent. The few non-union shippers must, in order to find crews, meet the wage scales of union-contracted vessels or provide other perquisites, such as guaranteed paid vacations in excess of the number of days the union plans provide. These benefits tend to balance out among the various unions and companies. While base pay may be higher on an oil-company tanker, a union-contracted tanker may have more jobs that receive premium or overtime pay. It is not uncommon for a seaman on a tanker to have as many as five or six separate rates of overtime, depending on the type of work done, it being on or off watch, or on weekdays or weekends.

Pay in the entry ratings goes something like this: ordinary seaman (OS) \$850 a month plus overtime of about \$550 (this is \$1,400 a month for chipping paint and making coffee). Also, he would be earning vacation days, paid at the rate of about 10 for each month worked. Although this is not high by today's assembly-line pay rates, we must also consider the free food and lodging on the ship. A wiper in the engine room makes roughly \$1,000 base pay, since his weekends are not guaranteed as are those of the OS. He earns about \$650 a month overtime for a total of about



Canal boats like this replace trucks and trains in a land with water roads. Oil tanker is docked at Botlek, Holland. Photo: W.P. Mote



Ram prow distinguishes pusher tug in Houston, Texas, harbor. Pushers move strings of barges around Gulf. Photo: W. P. Mote

\$1,650. The dishwasher also gets about \$1,400 a month — way ahead of minimum wages ashore. These figures should be used only as estimates. Rates vary between companies and unions, although they tend to balance out.

The pay is not tax-free. Merchant seamen must pay federal and Social Security taxes, as well as tax in their state of residence. The story of seamen staying out of the States for 18 months and then not having to pay tax is bunk: The ship is a piece of the United States of America. The sailor also has to pay his union dues. These, of course, are tax-deductible as are expenses for work clothing, necessary books and equipment and transportation to and from the vessel (when joining and leaving) if not paid by the shipping company.

If a seaman joins a ship overseas — if sent there by an American company — air fare is often required to be paid at first-class rate, allowing him to fly tourist and pocket several hundred tax-free dollars in cash.

As a seaman's rating goes up, so does his pay. ABs make well over \$2,000 a month and on tankers with a lot of tank cleaning to be done, \$3,500 or more. Junior officers of third mate/engineer rank make about \$3,500 per month, although this wage can vary radically between ships of the same company and between companies and fleets — even when all are under the same basic union contract. The base wages are more or less fixed; overtime is the variable. Radio officers make an average of \$4,000 a month and are currently getting 23 days' vacation for 30 worked in tankers and container vessels: the "fast-turn-

around" ships. A day of vacation for a day of work is the goal and will soon be a reality. The chief mates and first assistant engineers often earn more than their bosses, the captain and chief engineer, due to high overtime. We find men with command-grade licenses sailing one step down for the better money.

So, the pay, even in the lowest grades, compares quite favorably with that ashore, and junior officers can make wages that outstrip those of the so-called captains of industry — while working six months each year.

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## Cooks Can Make Or Break A Ship

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Cooks can make or break a ship. Ships under American flag offer three to five entrees at each meal. The various unions and companies have feeding plans for guidelines; the ship's chief steward plans his menus around them.

Meats are divided into classes and a first-class meat is served at each meal. A protein dish other than meat is considered equal for second or third choice. Thus cheese in the form of Welsh rarebit or golden-buck-style eggs may appear with pork chops or Virginia ham. There are third-class meats too. These include tongue, tripe and ox tails. Fish dishes are not limited to Fridays. Sunday and

Thursday are traditionally days for turkey at lunch and steak for supper, under American flag. (Some companies seem to emphasize certain dishes. Sea Land leans heavily on corned beef with plenty of cabbage. Farrell Lines was on a fish fad recently and one of the choices at each main meal was some sort of fish dish. Waterman and Delta ships and those of Lykes are based in the Mobile and New Orleans areas and serve more southern-style foods.)

Because crews come from so many ethnic, national, regional and religious backgrounds, the chief steward has to try to satisfy all hands. For example, the number of Puerto Rican seamen has increased rapidly in recent years, together with Cubans and sailors from other South American and Central American nations. Thirty years ago, when crews were Anglo, potatoes were the favorite starch. Now, because the majority prefer rice, the cooks have altered their menus accordingly.

Eggs, a protein, can be served at any meal, and omelets are often available for lunch and dinner — the evening meal is one-third of the crew's breakfast. Eggs seem to be enjoyed by all. Fried chicken is always a favorite. Almost everyone likes ice cream — and as one captain recently pointed out to me, there are more fresh strawberries served on our ships than the old standby — navy beans.

The contract feeding plans call for fresh vegetables, bread and milk to be put aboard in each port. Generally this rule is observed, but problems can occur overseas. On longer trips, a good baker is a blessing and since he also cooks breakfast, a visit to the galley at 0500 can result in a sample of sweet rolls or apple turnovers.

Unfortunately, the trend today is toward smaller stewards' departments. The chief steward often doubles as chief cook. The vegetable or third cook may both bake and cook breakfast. This requires such time-saving methods as the substitution of frozen pies, pastries and breads for fresh-baked goods. This trend has extended to meats as well. Although I wouldn't want to return to the old days when a voyage started with loading live chickens and a sheep or two aboard for fresh meat, the thought of TV dinners turns my stomach. It hasn't yet reached that point — but is at the stage of preportioned meats, and the chief steward no longer hacks away with a Chinese chopper at a side of beef to produce Sunday's steaks. Now they come in a box, each wrapped in plastic, trimmed to shape and of equal weight.

Some newer tankers have a cafeteria system for eating. Each man picks the items he wants and pops them into a microwave oven to zap them to whatever degree of doneness *he desires*. Don't blame the cook here if your steak is too well-done — you pushed the button

yourself! On most ships, though, feeding is not do-it-yourself. The messman takes the crewman's order, goes to the pantry, gets the food from the cooks and brings it to the table. He also cleans up after the meal, so the seaman won't have to balance plates to the dishwasher. Salads remain a do-it-yourself project at the salad bar with its assortment of dressings. The "two-pot" system of feeding is long-gone — officers and unlicensed crew eat the same food.

Besides three meals a day, night lunches are placed in the lounge refrigerators. They consist of various cold cuts and cheeses. Often potato, macaroni or tuna salad is put out — and in emergencies, there is always peanut butter.

The average freighter carries some 350-plus items on its foodstuff inventory. The item, "assorted jellies," may include six or seven varieties; "assorted condiments" include A-1 Sauce®, Worcestershire sauce, catsup and hot sauce. "Assorted pickles" may yield eight kinds of relish, pickles and peppers. Therefore, the actual list of individual items in the storerooms is closer to 500. This food goes into frozen-meat lockers, the fish "box" (a large freezer), dry-store and canned-goods storage rooms. There is a chill box for milk and a thaw room for next day's frozen meats. Potatoes and onions still come aboard in large sacks.

This amount is needed to feed between 30 and 45 people three daily meals that give a choice of three to six entrees, vegetables, soups, salads, desserts and beverages. When you add the cleaning gear and linens to this inventory, you can see why the chief steward often goes around with a worried look.

Richard Henry Dana, in *Two Years Before the Mast*, wrote a beautiful description of life on the sailing vessel *Pilgrim*. The conditions he wrote of — many men squeezed into a tiny fo'c'sle, miserable food and long, hard working hours — only ceased to exist in the last 40 years. Dana's world survived until the start of WWII, since sailing ships were still in commercial service then. The newer ships of that era, those built in the '20s and '30s, were modern by the standards of their day, but even the ships built during the war had three or more crewmen to a room and an entire department shared a "head." As for laundry facilities, there were none. Betterment of shipboard living conditions was one of the main reasons that the maritime unions came into existence.

From the "donkey's breakfast" and straw-filled mattresses of sailing days, shipboard life now features wall-to-wall carpeted rooms for every seaman. On some ships, two channels of music are piped into the quarters around the clock. Most vessels have movies or TV-tape systems, and some have game rooms with gym equipment. Of course, not all



Riverine pusher-tug moves load many times its weight. Photo: W. P. Mote

ships are this modern, but nearly all are now air-conditioned and many have individual temperature controls in each man's room. Clean, comfortable lounges give the officers and crewmen areas in which to meet during off-duty hours for card games or gossip. Libraries are put aboard by the American Merchant Marine Library Association. The bunk bed, so popular even into the '60s, has, in many cases, been replaced by a regular double bed. On some ships we still find the green sheets mentioned in books of old — only now they are fashionable pastels.

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## Merchant Mariners Clubs For The Sailor On The Beach

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Sometimes, when fishing is good at an anchorage, a fish fry is held. Some vessels have regular cookouts — on one ship on which I served we had crawfish and oyster parties. Of course, it is the men who make the ship, and it is a lucky crew when most are compatible.

The seamen's club, seamen's home, seamen's mission — whatever it is called and wherever in the world it is located — provides a focal point for the merchant mariner. These institutions — like the men they serve — come in all shapes, sizes, religions and political affiliations. In the West, most are church-sponsored; they range from the tiny trailer parked on a pier that offers coffee to crewmen returning from town to the 26-story Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) in New

York. The seaman on the beach, whether on shore leave from his ship or on an extended vacation leave, can choose from hundreds of these clubs, in almost any port of the world.

The SCI is operated by the Episcopal Church; the Church of England has the Flying Angel Clubs; the Catholic Church maintains the Stella Maris Clubs; England, that traditional maritime nation, sponsors the majority of the world's clubs. All clubs are open to anyone as long as he or she is a bona fide sailor. One organization of clubs, the USS (the United Seamen's Service) has its headquarters in New York. This USO-type operation has about a dozen clubs scattered worldwide. I can't give an exact count because the USS has suffered from the "you-win-some-you-lose-some" syndrome over the past few years. Two clubs were lost in Vietnam as was the one in Iran when the Shah departed. The USS is now opening a new club in Panama to service crews of Alaskan oiltrade vessels. The Lutheran Church of Germany has a fairsized network of Deutsches Seemanns Haus Missions that provide services as do those of the Scandinavian Seamen's Church Clubs. The latter serve mostly their own nationals. Sailor's Snug Harbor was a retirement home for seamen in New York for many years; it has been relocated in the south.

Services vary with club size. Most have at least an information counter with literature about the port area. Usual facilities include restaurant, bar, gift shop, rooms, employment information, and postal and money-changing office. Many have swimming pools, billiards, chess tables, chapels, libraries and counseling services, and a number

have classes on nautical subjects or the local language. Movies, TV and radio are sometimes available, and, at most, dances are held regularly. Some clubs also house museums where those interested in maritime history can trace the industry's development. The International Christian Maritime Association, 150 Route de Ferney, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, publishes a directory of clubs in the West. The clubs in the Eastern Bloc are state-run. They offer much the same services.

Landlubbers seeking information about shipping out are almost always welcome in the clubs, although they are not permitted to stay overnight. The prospective seaman would do well to spend a few days listening to some of the sea stories told in the snack bar of one of these clubs. Here he would hear about both the good and the bad aspects of sailing. If in doubt as to his welcome, he can chat briefly with the resident chaplain — and would almost certainly get an okay to have a few beers and hear some first-hand information from the active-duty sailors.

The U.S. Public Health Service has a nationwide system of hospitals and out-patient clinics. These treat both U.S. sailors and personnel of foreign ships when in U.S. waters or ports. Transportation from ships at sea to the hospitals is provided by the Coast Guard either by cutter or helicopter. The Coast Guard's radio stations are linked to the CIRM station in Rome, a free medical-advice service to ships anywhere in the world.

In the United States, the unions have medical plans whereby the men and women in their service — and their families — are protected. They can go to any city hospital for treatment or operations. These major-medical, dental, optical and out-patient benefits are of great value to the seaman. Some unions also operate clinics for members and provide a complete yearly check-up. Non-union employers almost always have some sort

of medical insurance, often a Blue Cross group plan. The union plans are funded entirely by the shipping companies, but oil-company plans sometime require contributions from seamen as well.

Vacation plans, like hospitalization, vary somewhat between companies and unions. They all come close to balancing out, though; some have more time off and some have higher pay when off. For many years, the non-union oil companies were far ahead of the unions in vacation days. Now the officers in the unions are rapidly approaching one for one. The oil companies still retain one unique benefit, the profit-sharing plan, whereby the seaman makes a certain monthly contribution, matched dollar for dollar by the company, for the purchase of company stock. In order to get the full value, he must stay with the company until retirement. If he leaves before, he gets his part of the contribution back, with interest.

Retirement is another benefit. Various unions have various systems. Some require that service amount to 20 years and count vacation days as days worked. Others require that the 20-year minimum actually be spent aboard ships; to "go out on 20" would, in this case, actually require many more years. It has been only in the last 20 or so years that a "20-year-out" existed at *any* age. Before then, retirement at 65 or 55 was the norm, if one had 20 years' service. Naturally, the retired seaman has his Social Security payments, which start at 65, in addition to union or company retirement-plan pay. Since retirement pay is fairly low, compared to sailing wages, most sailors do not get out after 20 years' service. Furthermore, for each year sailed beyond the initial 20, the retirement benefits go up. When a sailor does finally "swallow the anchor," he may do fairly well financially.

Both non-union companies and unions have excellent life-insurance programs. These fringe benefits are one ad-

vantage of staying with a specific union or company. The man who belongs to more than one union is automatically cut off from benefits if he is found to be sailing under another plan. No pyramiding of retirement or hospital benefits can take place. If he moves around, it is rare for a seaman to earn enough retirement "points" or "quarters." However, I do know of one case in which a man retired from an oil company after 20 years' service, started drawing his pension, then joined a union and re-shipped, a legal and — in his case — a very wise move. Also, in theory, an American seaman could retire from an American company or union and then sail under foreign flag.

Many cities have "seamen's stores" on their waterfronts. These shops sell everything from shoe laces to gifts for the family at home, and they will ship packages, insured. The gift services are extended to ships at sea. American-flag ships are covered by the FTD (Floral Telegram Delivery) system so the sailor can send flowers home. Candy, fruit baskets and sometimes cheeses and other goods can be cabled by radio too. Foreign-flag vessels, or at least those of European registry, use Interflora, a sea-going gift service with a catalog that rivals most mail-order houses. For the cost of the gift and a small radiogram charge, the seaman can send home items ranging from flowers and foodstuffs to nightgowns and liquors.

Brown, Son and Ferguson, Ltd., 52 Darnley St., Glasgow, G41 2SG, Scotland, publishes *The Nautical Magazine* primarily for members of the British merchant navy, but this long-running publication is just as interesting to U.S. readers. Various unions publish papers, and shipping companies and the seamen's clubs or the churches which sponsor them put out magazines and newsletters. *The Lookout Magazine* is SCI's quarterly. All these publications are of interest to the prospective seaman as general-information sources. He should read them from cover to cover — including the advertisements.

Throughout the world, many firms specialize in ship photos, ranging from one-man operations like Photo Sammi (Port Said, Egypt) and Gul Photo (Bombay) to large corporations. Straits Photos of Malacca, Malaysia, uses a helicopter, and Skyfotos Ltd., Littlestone Rd., New Romney, Kent, TN28 8LN, England, has its own plane. Skyfotos is the biggest supplier of ship photos, and if a vessel has ever been in the English Channel, chances are the company has its negative on file. All these companies can make enlargements from wallet- to wall-size murals.

The United Kingdom has several



Cloud of dust bursts from filling hull as foreign tanker loads grain in Mississippi River. Photo: W. P. Mote

*Continued on page 66*

# ORDNANCE EXPO '82

## SWAT's New in the Cop Shop



Text & Photos by Evan Marshall



Police weapons expert John Farnam examines La France Specialties (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 178211, San Diego, CA 92117) super-combat Remington Model 1100 shotgun.

ABOVE: LAPD SWAT Team displayed a selection of surveillance equipment. SWAT makes good use of goodies, including lighting, viewing, photographing and recording equipment. UPPER RIGHT: Police weapons expert John Farnam fires 5.56mm FN LAR Para model. For Peter Kokalis' evaluation of this weapon, see "Fusil Automatique Legere," SOF, June '82. RIGHT: Semper Preparatus: Framed in SWAT gear and assault vests displayed on unmarked Plymouth are (from right to left) Uzi 9mm submachine gun, AR15 with spare banana clips, Beeman/Feinwerkbau spring-piston air rifle, AR15 with flashlight mount and Davidson Optronics AN/PVS-2 Starlight Scope on AR15.





**O**RDNANCE Expo '82 was sponsored by the Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club 27 through 29 January at the LAPD Academy. This unique show gave law-enforcement personnel from all over the country a chance to check and test the latest in SWAT-related equipment.

On display were firearms — from handguns to Uzis — counter-terrorist equipment such as flash and blast grenades, surveillance and observation equipment, and night and laser sights, which were shown in a special low-light demonstration.

Included on the agenda were seminars covering subjects such as industrial security and terrorism as well as the popular "Street Survival" seminars put on by Dennis Anderson and Charles Remsburg. Attendance was high at Ulrich Wegener and Charles Beckwith's seminar on terrorism. There was also an excellent display of the LAPD's Special Weapons and Tactics Team equipment. Because the display hall was adjacent to LAPD's ranges, the myriad of weapons on view were also available for test-firing during the show.

Organized by Sgt. Dick Newell, LAPD's armorer, Ordnance Expo '82 was superbly run. The photos give a short rundown on some equipment of interest to SOFers. ☒



# HEAR NO EVIL

## Don Walsh's Superior Silencers

by J. David Truby



**F**IRING an M16 in the old residential Garden District of New Orleans on a sunny, warm spring afternoon is not recommended in the Chamber of Commerce tour guide. Don Walsh didn't read that guide.

That evening, other residents in the famed Hotel Maison de Ville in the city's French Quarter didn't share the professional delight of the men firing a Beretta Model 70 pistol in one of that hotel's elegant suites. Don Walsh was there.

Don Walsh invented and now produces silencers so effective that we easily "field-tested" all sorts of weapons in New Orleans without arousing any of the *citizenry* — much less the police or the local militia.

A 30ish bachelor, Walsh is the prime mover 'n' shaker for Interrand Corporation, Dept. SOF, 907 Washington St., New Orleans, LA 70130, phone (505) 891-5838, a company with the potential

**Camouflaged, field-ready silencer muffles business end of Remington 40XB in 7.62 NATO, demonstrated by designer/machinist/hedonist/wit Don Walsh. Photo: J. David Truby**

to become the top supplier of firearms silencers to the world's military and police. His innovative yet simple and efficient silencer designs place him in line to succeed the legendary Mitch WerBell III as *the* name in silencer design.

Walsh acknowledges the comparison: "Everyone in the clandestine-weapons field owes a huge debt to Mitchell WerBell III. In addition to the technical expertise and innovative designs he and Gordon Ingram brought to this field, he contributed something more.

"More than anyone, he elevated awareness of the legitimacy of silenced weapons in the small-arms arsenal. Historically, each of these special-mission

weapons has been a last-minute, modified afterthought. WerBell literally brought practical silencer design and use out of the closet. He made the genre legitimate. He's why the rest of us are here today," Walsh says.

"From a technical standpoint, WerBell's patents speak for themselves. There are technical benchmarks in the history of practical silencer design. Maxim started it, WerBell refined it, and someday I hope some young new technician might say that Walsh perfected it," he adds with a hearty chuckle.

Walsh views silencer design pragmatically. He says he is not interested in gimmicks or James Bond toys: "My designs and finished products are designed to be used in the field under all conditions. My criteria for a good silencer are simple: simplicity, strength, low or no maintenance, indefinite field life, no reduction in weapon accuracy or bullet

velocity and the greatest possible reduction in sound. In addition, I work to make the size and weight of my silencers as minimal as possible commensurate with the specific weapon in question."

So far, Walsh has succeeded in all areas, according to every test to date. I have examined, tested and used his various silencer/weapon combinations. They're good, no question about that. From my empirical observations I would say the Walsh silencers generally perform about 30 to 40 percent quieter than the Military Armament Corporation silencers used for comparison. Weapons tested included the M16A1, Beretta pistols, various Heckler & Koch pistols and assault rifles, the M3A1, Ingram M10 and M11, plus a Thompson Centerfire in massive .45/70. No ear protection needed; the man's silencers are good.

In addition, Walsh's silencers have been examined and tested by various weapons and military experts. Their evaluations have been as enthusiastic as mine. Don Walsh has a new idea: In the world of silencers, he has designed a quieter mousetrap. He didn't do it by accident, either. He's an educated, experienced, practical man with a delightful sense of nasty humor.

Walsh attended the University of New Orleans at various times between 1968 and 1980, studying political science, then working as a research chemist — two rather diverse fields. He is also a native of New Orleans, which he chucklingly refers to as a city of one-way streets, two-way men and three-way women. This inventive humorist says that his love for meerschaum pipes, Upmann cigars, great food and rare liquors exceeds his love for fine firearms and their (his) silencers. His heritage is Irish/Sicilian, which he says explains his views on organized religion and his penchant for organized violence.

This pleasant, worldly chap maintains residences both in New Orleans and in Arlington, Va., living with his gorgeous Japanese companion, Michiyo.

Some writers, rubes and other would-be savants in the silencer field say, "WHO?" when Don Walsh's name comes up. That's okay. He's not a lab, foundation or government houseboy. Consider the first-name-basis and even-closer friends this man has — then see if you still want to address him as "Who?" His friendly guest list includes Gordon Liddy, of everything fame; Bob Brown, of this-magazine fame; and Terry Anderson, of U.S. Olympic Marksmanship fame. He knows many people in the murky areas likely to be attracted to and have a need for silenced weapons. Indeed, there is even a hint of such nefarious goings on in Don Walsh's own background, despite his stiff-upper-lip denial.

Although he absolutely denies this, I'm told that Don Walsh was in Southeast Asia on some less-than-above-board



## BITE WITHOUT BARK

J. David Truby is an author who prefers weapons, like this Walsh-silenced short-barreled Thompson in .45/70, that are "all bite; no bark"; photo is by Steve Wanker-Sinden. This interview with silencer-designer Don Walsh continues the Truby tra-

dition of tracking down weapons that are whispering killers. Truby's article, "Whispering Death," on a Chinese communist assassination pistol owned by Mitch WerBell, appeared in SOF's April '79 issue.

— M.L. Jones



Scoped, silenced and stocked Thompson Centerfire looks like mongrel; performs like pure-bred. Photo: J. David Truby



On campaign in New Orleans, Walsh backyard-tests world's quietest M11. Photo: J. David Truby

Fire quietly, but lots. Silenced Sterling SMG chortles gently in fatherly caress of Don Walsh. Photo: J. David Truby





business for someone in U.S. officialdom. He was injured there by a grenade fragment, which left him with minimal light perception in his left eye. At times, he resembles the veteran character actor Jack Elam because of this injury.

He also brought back some very definite ideas about the proper design of and need for silencers to be used by men in the field. Unlike many other "see a problem; solve a problem from the field" types, Don Walsh knew that homespun, cracker-barrel ingenuity wasn't the answer. Instead, he looked at the theories of science and technology involved before cranking up a lathe.

Walsh has obviously done his homework. He put his scientist's mind to work, studying ballistic and acoustic engineering, metallurgy, structural design and even the nuts 'n' bolts of machining.

"There was just too much technology at stake for me to treat this like some basement tinker's hobby. I studied the appropriate sciences and engineering, then began to survey the literature.

"Both from my past use of silencers in the field and from my research, I concluded that for a given-volume silencer, a wire-mesh type of packed silencer is inherently superior to a baffle type. This was the same conclusion AMF came to in its very valuable research and I concur, now that I have thoroughly tested variations of both types of designs."

Walsh adds, "The mesh system is far superior because of its dynamic interaction with the impulse noise of a firearm. Hot gases and burning propellant are expanded and cooled while acoustical energy is lost by mechanical transfer to the mesh. On the other hand, the baffle design is static, with no interaction.

"Baffles and chambers are inferior because they serve only to delay the escape of these sound-causing gases, which are cooled then by adiabatic expansion." He says that in addition to being a far superior silencing medium, his mesh design also allows a much smaller package to perform better than a larger baffle design. His proven concept now allows the use of a smaller, lighter silencer for larger-caliber weapons than previously encountered — a definite advantage in the field.

"I was also able to overcome the only major disadvantage of a mesh silencer," Walsh declares. "The old method was to stack 'washers' cut from woven-wire cloth of a suitable wire diameter and mesh size inside of a tube. The ID of the washer stack formed the bullet path and was typically .025 to .050 inch larger than the projectile diameter.

"However, vibration and blast allow individual strands of wire to work loose and into that bullet path. When you have 240 washers, as in the typical unit, the probability of wires getting into the bullet's path is high. If enough wire debris is in that path it will throw off the



In shop Walsh prepares for range-test of M3A1 muzzled with one of his new designs. Photo: J. David Truby

accuracy of the projectile. This is why, for example, the High Standard HD, used by the OSS and later by the CIA, and the M3A1, silenced by Bell Labs, have to be repacked so often.

"That situation defined part of my problem — to find a packing with the acoustical and thermal/mechanical properties of a wire-screen-washer stack, but without the loose ends. I finally located a first-rate manufacturer of metal and plastic textiles, who was willing to work with me on the metallurgical engineering. Soon, samples of the type of packing I wanted were fabricated for field trials. The results were so positive I immediately ordered tooling and dies for my custom mesh pieces that would be the 'guts' of my design."

His original custom-design, seamless, knitted-copper-wire mesh, was formed into what Walsh calls "doughnuts" in the proper size for each caliber. The mesh doughnuts and various spacers are simply placed in one of Walsh's specially designed tubes, end caps are screwed in place and the unit screwed on the end of the weapon in question; the result — one of the quietest weapons in the field.

For production purposes, his original system has been superseded by a simplified refinement which Walsh calls "GI-proof," meaning it is ready for



Truby, much-heard writer about little-heard guns, checks out on M3A1 silencer by Walsh. Photo: Steve Wanker-Sinden

field troops. He adds, "I am now using an exotically machined central-core passage in all my units except for the .22 rimfire models. This change allows absolute simplicity in manufacture, plus control of alignment at a much lower cost than before."

The professional firearms-design field does not hold a large group of people, and the relations between the principals are not always as pleasant as someone like Dale Carnegie might wish. Indeed, there are some downright feuds between contemporaries in this field. The silencer fraternity is even smaller, and following the cheerful lead of pledgemaster Mitch WerBell's reputation, Don Walsh agrees that his field shares none of the bitchiness that swirls about in the larger areas of less-than-corporate ordnance. In fact, he speaks very highly of his competition. Men like WerBell, Dr. Philip Dater, Jonathon Arthur Ciener and Reed Knight all get his professional approval and respect.

Walsh declares, "I may disagree with them on some technical details, but these men are all top professionals and I respect their work."

Walsh does have strong feelings about silencer technology, and isn't shy about stating them, saying, "I am adverse to porting barrels. Usually porting, venting, 'wipes' and the like are merely crutches needed to bolster a basically ineffective system so the sound signature of a weapon is at least reasonable.

"If a silencer is designed and produced properly in the first place there is absolutely no need for porting or wipes. About the only time you would even consider porting is when you are using a weapon firing the 9mm ball round and you can't get subsonic loads."

There are few weapons Don Walsh says he cannot effectively quiet or distort, even large-caliber centerfires.

But two domestic firearms really draw his ire when he gets requests to turn out a silencer unit for them. He says some police units want these weapons silenced. "The AR7 and the American 180 are bad designs to begin with and I refuse to stock them myself. If I can't talk a customer out of it, I guess I could put a can on the end for him, but I won't be happy about it."

Walsh also has harsh words for the various silencer kits being advertised through *Shotgun News*. He says that despite the pious wording about federal approval, needed for assembly, these kits always end up in an illegal configuration. The ones he has tested are also highly ineffective.

"I'd advise anyone to stay clear of these ads for silencer kits. They're nothing but expensive trouble for you and your weapons. Not only are they poorly designed and manufactured, but shortly after the mailman or the UPS driver brings you your kit, you're liable

to have friendly BATF boys at your door. If you want a silencer, pay the money to do it right and do it legally."

Asked the difference between a silencer and a sound suppressor, Walsh replies, "Mostly it's semantics, something important only to the arcane technical minds who have nothing to do but worry about things like that."

"Technically," he continues, "no silencer really silences, it only quiets or suppresses the noise of a gunshot. Hiram Maxim, the man who started all of this by inventing the first practical silencer, called his device a silencer and that's good enough for me."

Walsh did not get into silencer work by his own design, nor did he slide in by the usual military-contact door. He has one degree in political science, another in synthetic organic chemistry — and he wanted to be a science-fiction writer, so he wrote, sold and published his science-fiction stories. He has also published as a chemist in the professional journals of that field.

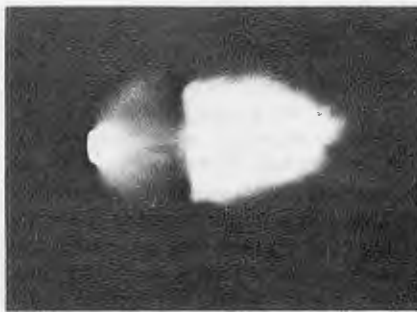
"My entry into the silencer field was a business progression, actually," he notes. "I gravitated from collecting, then selling sporting weapons as a hobby to a business; to surplus military weapons; from conventional military small arms to weapons covered by the National Firearms Act."

He freely admits he is in the design and manufacture of silencers as a profitable business, adding, "I had a Class 3 license in 1975, but soon found that manufacturing is the only way for me to make a real business of it in this field. I recognized that the demise of MAC [Military Armament Corporation], which started to fall apart when Mitch left the company in '72, created a real void in this field of military design."

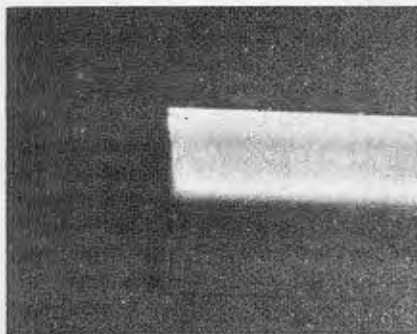
"Some of my earliest work was converting the old OSS/CIA stuff over to my system and seeing how much more improved it was. I refitted an HD, an M3A1, the SOE's Welrod and, of course, some of the modern weapons for early customers, usually friends with Class 3 licenses."

He began doing more custom-silencer work for both collectors and Class 3 dealers, producing units for their weapons, or designing and producing integrated units by matching weapon and silencer: "It was fun," Walsh says. "But there was no real money in it and I like the things in life that you must have money to enjoy. Since someone always seemed to be at war with someone else all the time, like so many other ordnance designers, I turned to police and military markets in 1981."

There are three markets for silencers: individuals, domestic government and export sales. The first group is composed of collectors and other private citizens who can qualify for and afford the \$200-per-unit federal transfer tax on top



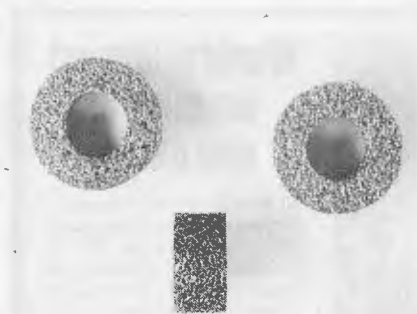
**ABOVE: Flash from stock Ingram MAC 11; BELOW: Bullet has slipped out of Walsh silencer with no flash and little noise. Photos: J. David Truby**



of the purchase price. Nobody ever got rich with this market, and no serious silencer manufacturer considers it a prime one. The government and export markets are something else, though, especially with the Reagan defense-spending philosophy dominating the Western world.

Mallory Engler, a former military officer and counterinsurgency-warfare expert from England, says, "Vietnam and some of the paramilitary and antiterrorist activities have finally convinced the traditional military mind that silencers have a legitimate and most useful special-mission role in a variety of operations. This acceptance really opens a broad market for silencer makers."

Engler adds, "The important thing is to demonstrate the devices, because many of the government officials who make the purchasing decisions are men who have never been in the field or ac-



**Guts of Walsh silencer: compressed copper-wire doughnuts break up sound waves and transmit heat. Photo: J. David Truby**

tually seen, or heard, a silencer in action. They must be shown."

Don Walsh agrees with this wholeheartedly, saying, "Domestic marketing is mostly a matter of getting my silencers in the hands of the decision-makers who must see and 'hear' my technology and capability. Hearing this sound of relative silence — if I may be a bit literary — is usually all it takes. It's not ego, but fact: My silencers sell themselves because they meet the need."

"I show my devices to police and military officials and demonstrate their efficacy in terms of command-and-control situations. That's about all it takes. There are so many ways in which a silenced weapon may be used to save time, money, hassle and even lives."

The official U.S. attitude was notoriously anti-silencer during the Carter administration. Despite the obvious advantages of silenced weapons in antiterrorist, counterinsurgency, military, police and training operations, our government was officially opposed to the devices and concepts. Not only did this regressive policy injure domestic research and development, the State Department hindered export sales, too.

"This was the era in which I was conducting most of my own R&D," Walsh says. "It was a good time for me to experiment. Now, with the Reagan administration's emphasis on fighting back against global terrorist activity, the emphasis is on the proper tools for such combat." He adds, "If the business has something to gain from this shift in policy, so does the ultimate freedom of law-abiding people everywhere, especially for those who now live in fear of the terrorist who is able to move and strike with impunity, unconcerned about inadequately armed police and security forces with their unsophisticated equipment."

"Dozens of 'field laboratories' from Africa to South and Central America to Southeast Asia have taught us that silencer-equipped weapons are some of the most effective antiterrorist weapons."

Although he is a corporate member in good standing of the American Defense Preparedness Association, the Association of the U.S. Army and other military/industrial organizations, Don Walsh admits that neither his name nor that of Interrand is yet in the defense household-word category of Olin, Colt or Smith & Wesson — yet. But in the world of silencer design, he is already in the Big Leagues on his way to a good season and certain stardom.

He grins, gives you that Jack Elam squint, then says, "In this business, silence goes a long way, so I'll just call myself the uniquely quiet American." ❧

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**SOG**  
Continued from page 29

word, we would move out to the right in team order on a dead run. Once we reached the woodline, we'd move into a modified enfilade right to bring more fire to bear directly where we wanted to penetrate. The gunships made a final, blazing pass, I yelled and we moved.

Again, as it had been all afternoon, enemy fire was intense, but high. We got to the woodline, burst through what turned out to be only about a 10-yard stretch of vines and brush and caught sight of Fleming swinging his chopper over the bank into the postage-stamp landing zone (LZ). We dog-trotted toward the bird but when we were less than 20 yards from it, two NVA burst from cover, firing at us from a very close distance. The entire team returned fire with withering effect.

The team passed me as I signalled that I would assume tailgun responsibilities. There were instances of team members being accidentally left on a LZ in the confusion of a hot exfil. Because of that nasty experience, the ranking man or teamleader was in charge of seeing that everyone made it.

The LZ was taking fire from 360 degrees by now. Several rounds smashed into the Huey, one shattering the chin bubble under the co-pilot's feet. The track of incoming tracers was easy to follow across the rotor-wash-flattened grass. But Jim Fleming just sat there waiting for us as calmly as if he were sitting in the family station wagon waiting to take his daughters to the base swimming pool.

We scrambled into the cabin; Fleming pulled pitch and five hours after insertion, we sailed clear of Tango-51. Total U.S. casualties: zero. Total NVA casualties: a bunch. Reconnaissance gains: mere confirmation of enemy concentration. Awards and decorations: Medal of Honor for James Fleming; Silver Star for his copilot; three Bronze Stars for the Special Forces team.

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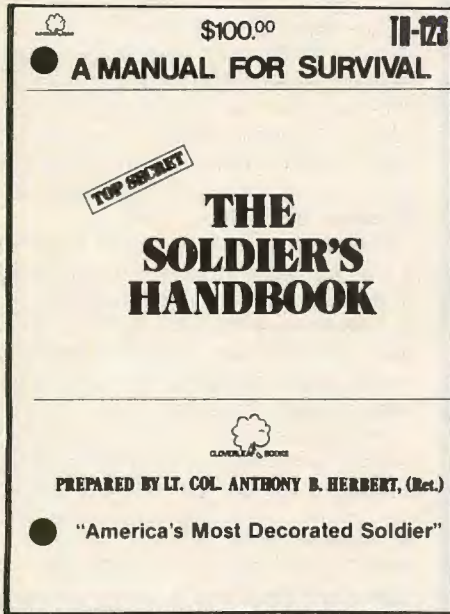
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Jim Townsend  
Editor

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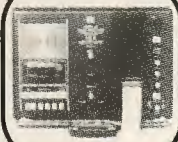
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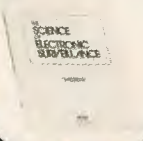
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# MERCHANT MARINE

Continued from page 57

maritime-service groups, including the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. This rescue service is similar to our Coast Guard, but is supported by public contributions. It has many nautical gifts and sells Christmas cards, calendars, plaques and many other items. The address is RNLI Ltd., West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ, England. The Merchant Navy Christian Association is another British organization, open to all Christian seapersons, of any grade. It is located at 110 Berkeley St., Glasgow, Scotland G3 7HU.

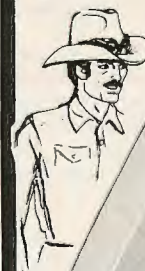
Continental services include INROC, a club for radio officers, which is based in Belgium at Chaussee de Ruisbroek 54, B-1190 Brussels. Membership in the club itself is free to sea-going radio operators, but its school is expensive — and at advanced rather than entry level.

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union but provides license insurance for any deck or engineering officer, union or not, who holds one of its policies. The company will go to court to protect client interests in the event of accident at sea. These organizations give some idea of the variety of services available to sailors. There are probably others of which I am not aware. Generally speaking, sea-going is international and services of any port are open to all, national and visitor alike.

To be concluded. Part 3: Under Foreign Flags.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVERBOAT DECKHAND

*Editor's Note: SOF Executive Editor Bob Poos worked off and on for about five years as a riverboat and deep-sea deckhand before he enlisted in the Marines and while he was attending Southern Illinois University on the Korean War GI Bill. Here are some of his recollections:*

I have been a coal miner, construction worker, sandhog (digging tunnels under heavy air pressure), U.S. Marine infantryman, war correspondent — and deckhand. The last was the hardest physical work I have ever done and the second most dangerous occupation — the most dangerous being war.

Actually, I am talking more about riverboating than deep-sea. The few ocean voyages I made, I did little more than chip and paint and make coffee for the officers.

Riverboating is demanding and dangerous, yes, but rewarding in both personal satisfaction in work well done — and in pay. It's a great way to work yourself through college. You spend three to six months straight on the river and then go back to school for a quarter or a semester, and all the while you receive those handsome vacation-days paychecks. Because I also had the Korean GI Bill, I was a pretty fat cat when I went to school.

The work for a deckhand — the only capacity in which I served — involves a lot of heavy lifting and carefully-balanced walking on narrow walkways. You carry ratchets over one shoulder — turnbuckles with a lever handle in the center and "pelican hooks" on either end. The hooks are attached to a "wire" (cable to a landlubber) on one end and to a deck fitting on the other. The wires are carefully woven among "cavels," banana-shaped fittings, or "timberheads," fittings which resemble short tree stumps.

When the wires are affixed properly, the deckhand works the ratchet handle until the wires are taut — singing tight.

A top hand goes out on the tow with, perhaps, a wire weighing about 40 pounds on one shoulder and an 85-pound ratchet on the other. Going out on the tow involves walking along the "guard," a platform surrounding the barge. This can range in width from three feet to one foot, depending on the type of barge. It's like walking a tightrope while carrying an unbalanced load. I have seen men go overboard and drown instantly or be sucked up into the towboat's propellers and chopped to bits.

Deckhands also carry "lines," two ¼-inch hawsers which are affixed to deck fittings prior to the wires being attached. Sometimes in heavy water, both are employed in case one of them parts.

A wire on a barge on which I was working parted when the tow hit a sandbar near Vicksburg, Miss. It took off the head of the man working next to me as neatly as though he had been guillotined.

On some rivers, a deckhand has to break up the tow while "making locks." This involves releasing a certain number of barges so they can enter the lock and be winched up- or downriver. The deckhand is armed with a sledge hammer and he knocks the pelican hooks loose from the wires — dangerous, tricky work. Then, when the entire tow and the towboat are through the lock, the tow must be brought together again and the wires retightened.

When I worked the rivers, the Ohio had 52 locks, the upper Mississippi 26 and the Illinois four or five. The lower Mississippi (below St. Louis) and the Missouri had none and there we frequently rammed sandbars — and some of the barges would break loose from the main tow. The towboat then would have to chase them. Deckhands used the lines like giant lassos (lines have an "eye" on one end), snubbing them tight onto deck fittings until the wires were replaced.

Some men preferred the routine of making locks and others liked to gamble on not hitting sandbars, so some of us were known as "lower-end men" and the others as "upper-end men." I was a lower-end man.

I was a member of the National Maritime Union (NMU) and to obtain work you registered in the union hall. Your name went at the bottom of a shipping list, and as those at the top shipped out, you advanced until you neared the list's top and could claim a berth aboard a boat or ship.

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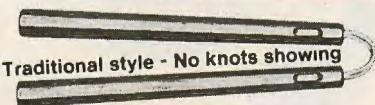


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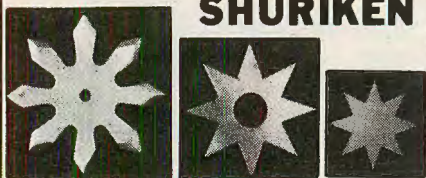
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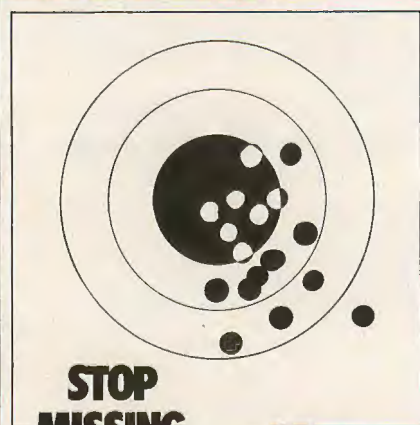
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which were "good feeders" or which had chickenshit captains or bucko mates. (I've sailed under both and I've been on boats and ships that fed so badly it almost let to mutiny. On one riverboat we literally threw the drunken cook into shallow water near Memphis, Tenn., and watched him swim ashore. The boat had to put into port while a new cook was obtained through the NMU hall. The whole crew went ashore and got gloriously smashed when we learned that "Marge," whom we all knew, got the job.)

Other chores aboard a riverboat involve manhandling a heavy suction pump out onto the tow and pumping out leaky (most of them are) barges so they won't sink. And once I found myself down in the sweltering hold of an empty barge, shovelling mud into a large bucket which another deckhand would hoist up, when full, and empty into the river. Rivers are muddy, barges are leaky and mud accumulates in them.

As on deep-sea ships, a riverboat captain is the Master of the Vessel — in other words, God. A not unusual punishment was to "put a man on the bank" — putting the head of the tow on the riverbank and forcing the miscreant to make his way, the best he could, to the nearest town.

This happened to me once. I won't say in this family magazine what the crime was, but will note that on riverboats most cooks and all the waitresses are women.

I was ejected somewhere below Baton Rouge, La., and I had exactly 40 cents in my pocket, having banked all my checks. I hitchhiked to New Orleans and registered at the union hall; it was four days before I could catch another boat. I had one 10-cent hamburger each day to sustain me. Deckhands are (or at least were) a funny breed. They'd buy you all the beer you could drink, but damn if they would stake you to a meal.

Later on, I learned which bars and restaurants in the various ports would put you "on tick" while you were ashore waiting for a job. Two of the best that I still remember all these years later were Andy Cole's in New Orleans and Johnny Sansone's in St. Louis.

And they were supremely honest. I once decided to check up on Sansone during a period when I was "on the bank," awaiting a deck job in St. Louis. I kept a careful check of every nickel spent on meals and drinks during this time. And when I came back a couple of months later to pay my bill, I found it to be exactly the same as my records — without interest, mind you.

As Bill Mote says, many sailors have favorite lines on which to ship.

Mine were Federal Barge Line on the rivers and Lykes Lines for deep-sea.

And although, as Mote says, ship-board life is better in these more civilized days, working conditions or the food used to get so bad that a sailor would "jump ship" without notifying the captain he was leaving.

I did this once. I had been hanging around the NMU hiring hall for a long time and no Federal openings for deck crews had appeared, so I shipped out on a Mississippi Valley Line boat going on the upper-end clear to Minneapolis.

It was a bummer. The food was lousy. The first mate was a bully and employed brutality to cover up his incompetence on deck, and the captain cared nothing for his crew's welfare.

I was tempted to jump at several ports where we locked through but was wary of getting off somewhere strange that might not have a union hall. So I made the entire trip up and back to Lock and Dam 26 at Alton, Ill. There, I and two other deckhands on our watch skipped.

I could go on reminiscing about my days on the water forever, but this is getting too long now, so I'll tell just one more story — about the only time in my life I was ever arrested.

Back when I sailed the rivers, boats sometimes laid up in port for a day or so to make up large tows. The guys could go into town for a beer or to buy toilet articles, magazines, etc.

But there was still plenty of work to do, so everyone couldn't go. In that case, one or more of the off-watch crew would get stuff for the others. I was going "up the bank" at Memphis, Tenn., one day and took orders from the on-watch men.

I had a couple of beers, went to the drugstore to get the articles on my list and was returning to the boat. I was feeling great and whistling, when two Memphis detectives pulled up in an unmarked police car and informed me I was disturbing the peace. They had an anti-noise ordinance and I was breaking it by whistling.

That, of course, was baloney. Those two cops just had it in for rivermen. They took me to the slammer, took away my belt and belongings, and roughed me up a little before locking me in. Just prior to the boat's departure that day, other cops put me in a police car and took me to the waterfront. They apparently had checked on departure time.

I did not go back to Memphis for many years, but when I did, I checked to see if I had a police record. I didn't. The incident was never recorded.

Ah, those were happy days. I was sunbaked to the color of old saddle leather and strong as a water buffalo from hard physical labor. I had

worked my way up to acting second mate and was considering taking the licensing test. But about the same time, I graduated from SIU and went into journalism.

Oh well, everybody is entitled to one mistake in life, I guess. ✕

— Bob Poos

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*Continued from page 45*

reconnoitering Palestinian territory near Nabatiye. Giving up, I climbed atop the Sherman for a better view. Peering over the top of the Browning, I spotted something moving down near the Litani. Chambering a round, I trained the HMG in that direction but held my fire until I could see the target: a man with his hands extended high over his head.

Yelling at Hassan to get his rifle, I told him to take up a position on the embankment in front of me. He waited impatiently for the man to reach the concertina wire. Then he jumped from his prone position and with his rifle leveled at the man's mid-section, slowly worked his way down the treacherous, rock-covered ground while I drew a steady bead on our visitor.

As Hassan moved closer, he shouted something in Arabic and our visitor lay face down on the ground. Hassan tied the man's hands behind his back and then blindfolded him with a roll of gun-cleaning cloth. Guiding our prisoner up to our position, Hassan sat him down on the embankment in front of me so I could keep an eye on him while he put a call through to the Israelis.

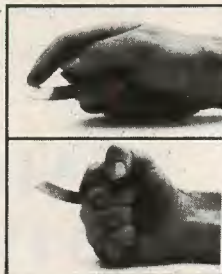
Hassan questioned the prisoner: a Syrian deserter. He had heard that Maj. Haddad was granting full amnesty to Palestinian defectors. Within the hour our prisoner was ushered into the back of the APC by a number of Israelis and Lebanese, and the vehicle ground back up the hill.

I heard later that Maj. Haddad and some Israeli brass were on hand to meet the APC when it reached the hill top. The major took the still-blindfolded Syrian off to one side for a short private conversation. Then the Israelis loaded him into a jeep for the ride to army headquarters in Metulla.

My second night of duty started out much like the first. It was a quiet, peaceful evening. I had just gotten to sleep when I was awakened by a bone-jarring explosion. Everyone began hollering and shouting orders as we hastily jerked on our boots, not bothering to tie them. We bolted from our cots to take up defensive positions on the banks. I sprinted full-speed over the ground and hit a prone position just below the top of the embankment off to one side of the Sherman. Everyone was shooting. I began to pump lead into the treeline below and the muzzle blasts from my rifle filled my eyes and mouth with dust. Emptying a 20-round magazine, I slammed home a fresh one and started squeezing the trigger again.

Tony was on the Sherman, raking the terrain below with the Browning, while another Lebanese did the same from

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atop the APC. After a few minutes of sustained fire, Tony ordered us to cease fire until he could get some illumination. Watching the action from their barracks on the hill behind us, the Israelis figured they could help us best by firing a few illumination rounds over our position.

We heard the distant boom of artillery, and then the valley stillness was disrupted by the "who, who" sound of a descending flare. Our eyes strained to see if anything moved under the glare of the diminishing flare. Since there was no fog, we had an unobstructed view down to the Litani River about one click away. Seeing no movement, Tony put a call through to the Israelis to have our artillery cease fire. Tony told us that a Palestinian had crept up on us, using a ravine as cover. He then fired a RPG round at the APC but it skimmed the top and exploded in the rocks on the other side of an embankment.

When it was light enough to see what we were doing, Tony, Hassan and I made the 40-meter trek through the garbage and weeds down to the spot just on the other side of the concertina wire where Tony had seen the flash. Walking through an opening in the wire, the only evidence we saw of our Palestinian visitor was the patch of ground that was blown clear by the blast of the rocket launcher. From where we were standing, the only piece of equipment we could see inside our compound was the Browning

atop the APC; his chances of hitting the vehicle itself had been slim to none.

Except for rare exchanges of small-arms fire with the Palestinians across the Litani, the rest of the week was loathsome beyond measure. To pass the time, we used the stray cats that rummaged through the garbage piles for target practice or blasted away at migrating cranes that wheeled in the sky over us.

A few minutes before our final departure we heard explosions and automatic fire coming from Palestinian camps on the mountainsides near Beaufort. Obviously, they were getting ready. ☒

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## USSR

Continued from page 33

fitted with rocker arms to simulate the lurching ride of a vehicle over rough ground. Field training includes live firing from mockups and vehicles. Units trained for air-assault operations — which is normally at least one company in each regiment — repeat this procedure, using mockup helicopters. In Soviet air-assault operations, troops carried aboard the helicopters use gunports to add to the suppressive fire directed on the LZ. The Soviets will not assign any soldier who requires glasses to motorized rifle units.

On the average, Soviet motorized rifle troops spend 23 hours a month on weapons training, each soldier's training concentrating on his primary assigned weapon. This is the second largest allocation of training time for the Soviet soldier. Only tactical training, which repeats every six months the familiar progression of squad-platoon-company-battalion-regiment and finally division-sized exercises, has more time allocated to it — an average of 55 hours a month.

Throughout training, Soviet soldiers learn to shoot at night and in reduced visibility, and simulate nuclear, biological and chemical battlefield conditions. All Soviet servicemen (except, apparently, those in construction or other non-combat units) must qualify with the assault rifle. Soldiers whose primary specialty will be the use of another

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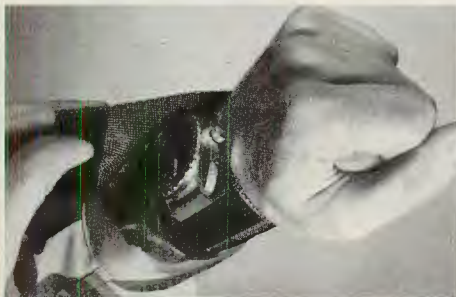
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Snipers are normally selected from soldiers who have been competition shooters in their DOSAAF units. Snipers receive medical screening for above-average vision, hearing, memory and reaction time.

Combat pistol shooting is not emphasized in either the Soviet armed forces or their civilian marksmanship programs. Only target or air pistols are used by civilians, largely because the standard Soviet Makarov 9mm pistol is considered a self-defense weapon. Officers above the rank of major and some vehicle and helicopter crewmen have the Makarov as their primary weapon, although many junior officers and warrant officers carry it as well as a rifle. In some units soldiers who qualify with the rifle in less than a specific amount of time are allowed to qualify with the pistol as a reward.

The number of live rounds available for weapons training apparently varies from unit to unit, according to readiness status and from year to year. Soviet live-fire training has been criticized as inadequate and it is probably less effective than U.S. Army training. Riflemen are not cross-trained on other weapons and assistant machine-gunners are instructed in the firing of the weapon, but only when the training time and ammunition are not required by the designated machine-gunners.

The Soviet Army does not stress ac-

## HOLSTER NEWS from DeSantis

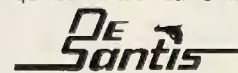
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curate rifle fire at ranges further than 200 meters. Indeed, the ballistics of the 7.62mmx39 M43 intermediate round used in all Soviet assault rifles until the introduction of the 5.45mm rounds for the AK-74 made aimed fire at longer ranges difficult. What the Soviet Army demands of its riflemen is suppressive fire — hence the emphasis on firing full-auto. They are to keep the enemies' heads down while the combined-arms armored offensive literally rolls over the opposition. Targets at longer range are left to the machine guns. The platoon sniper deals with the rare occasions in which long-range, aimed, single-shot fire is required.

Although the Soviet methods of combat shooting may prove effective against NATO forces in Germany, against Afghans it results in a lot of rocks being sprayed by automatic fire while the Afghans move to another position. The hawk-eyed inhabitants of the Northwest Frontier can pick off Soviets with their bolt-action Lee-Enfields, using long-range aimed shots, much better than the Soviets can return the compliment. In the future, Soviet weapons training may be modified so that it includes the lessons learned in Afghanistan.

Weapons training and marksmanship remain an important part of Soviet military power. The Soviet call for a "nation in arms" literally means a whole nation trained to use these arms. ☒



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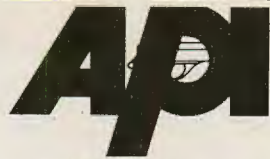


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## BULLETIN BOARD

Continued from page 8

equipped a fast-reaction anti-terrorist force. The group, less than 20 men, is located at a remote section of Fort Bragg, N. C.

The spokesman declined to comment on reports that the unit had been sent to Italy in order to aid Italian police in their successful liberation of Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier from captivity by the Red Brigades. He said only that the unit had been "exercised."

The force is a multi-service group and comes under direct control of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

## ACTORS AID REBELS ...

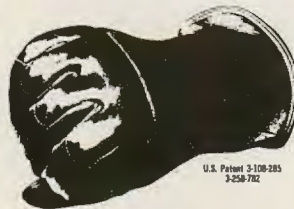
Ed Asner, the Lou Grant of TV-series fame, is a fine actor but his political views leave something to be desired. They are about the same as those of Jane Fonda.

Asner is the leader of a group of Hollywood freaks who have announced that they are raising \$1

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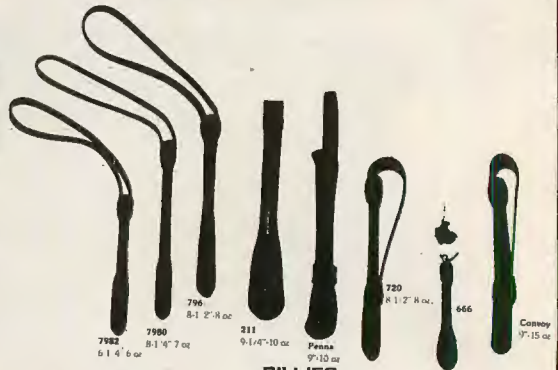
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million for the communist rebels in El Salvador.

Asner, whose qualifications as a geo-political expert are about the same as Fonda's — none — announced grandly, "We are determined to stop American involvement in this war, so help us, God."

Asner said the money will all be used for "medical aid to the Democratic Revolutionary Front." That's partially true. Some of it will be used for military medical supplies and the rest to buy weapons.

Joining Asner are actress Lee Grant; Howard Hesseman, who plays Dr. Johnny Fever in *WKRP In Cincin-*

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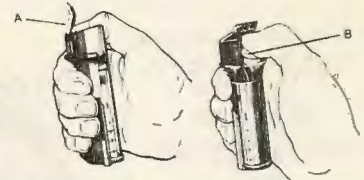
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## W HOOPS ...

In "Steyr's Firing Line," p. 46, column 3 (SOF, April, '82), the copy should read: "This is a compromise between the 1:12 inches now used in the M16A1 and the 1:7 inches which will be required for use with the new Belgian FN SS109 bullet."

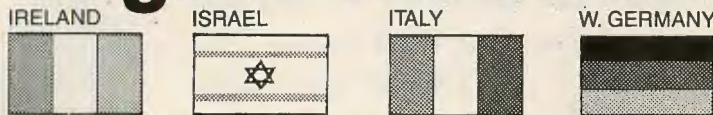
## NAM VETS WANTED ...

The Boston Publishing Co., which is publishing a series of books on the Indochina War, advises SOF that for its next two volumes it would like to hear from Viet vets who served there from 1965 through 1968.

One volume will deal with the war from 1965 to the Tet offensive and the other will cover Tet and its aftermath. What is sought are stories and anecdotes describing what the war was really like, on the ground, in the air, on water, R&R, going there and coming back to the World.

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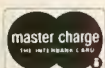
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## "MAD NICK" AND THE HIT MAN ...

A plot hatched by British mercenary "Major" Nick Hall to overthrow the government of left-leaning Ghana has surfaced in London.

Involved besides Hall are mercenary Chris Dempster, who fought in Angola, and David Bufkin, who recruited the American mercs who fought there.

Part of the plot allegedly involves putting out a 50,000-pound contract on Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawling. It would be followed by a lightning invasion by 30 hand-picked mercs. Hall told a British newspaper that they expected the aid of some 1,000 Ghanaian troops and paramilitary police.

Installed as the new leader of Ghana would be Kwesi Ofori, the country's treasurer under the ousted opposition party, the People's National Party.

Hall's title of "Major" is, incidentally, self-bestowed. He was kicked out of the British army and sentenced to a two-year jail term in 1972 for selling arms to Ulster Loyalists fighting the IRA. He was a private.

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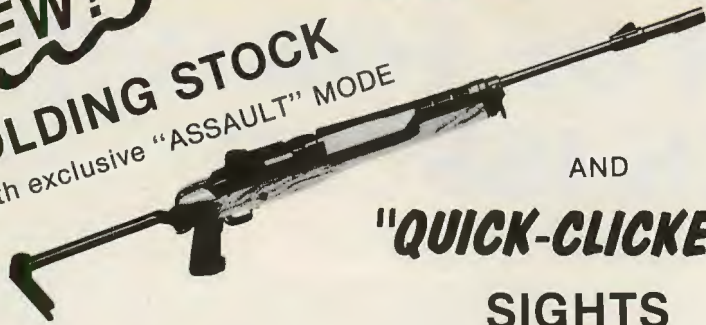
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**ANOTHER MORTON GROVE? ...**

Yet another American city is about to pass a confiscatory — and probably unconstitutional — handgun law. San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein confirmed that an ordinance prohibiting the sale of pistols and citizen ownership of them is in the works.

The proposed ordinance would carry a penalty of 30 days in jail. Citizens would have 90 days in which to surrender their guns to police.

Law officers and the military would be exempted.

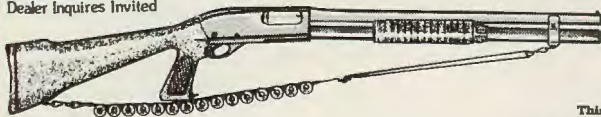
**SWEDISH MEATBALLS ...**

One always gets a feeling of *deja vu* when Sweden comments on U.S. foreign policy.

The Scandinavian nation was probably America's harshest critic, outside the ComBloc, on U.S. involvement in Vietnam. However, Sweden has been quiet as a little mouse about the blood bath in Southeast Asia that occurred upon the ultimate North Vietnamese victory.

Now Sweden has taken it upon itself to sound off about U.S. policy in El Salvador — which, of course, is in our backyard, not Scandinavia's.

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Now, let's hear it from Swedish Foreign Minister Ola Ullsten, who says the United State is "supporting an impossible policy of terror in El Salvador."

Not one to follow a policy of economy of words, this worthy commentator continues: "It is short-sighted and unworthy of a democracy like the United States to support a regime which has been increasingly isolated from its own people and bears heavy responsibility for fearful acts of terror." (He doesn't comment on communist terror, of which there is plenty of evidence.)

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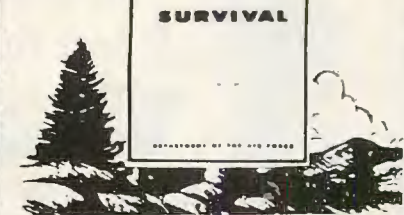


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He said the United States should arrange negotiations between the present government and the guerrillas, who, he said, "have expressed their willingness to negotiate."

He apparently hasn't read that the communists refused to take part in free elections in El Salvador — they would lose. And he apparently hasn't heard much about Nicaragua, where liberals and moderates negotiated with the communists.

There aren't any more of the former around.

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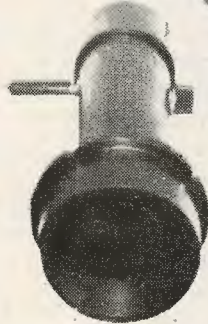
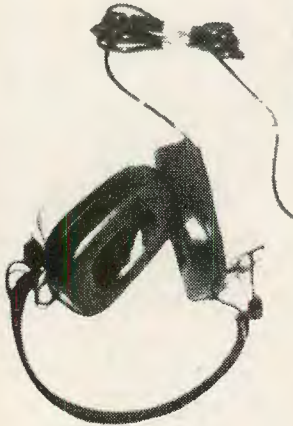
Best-selling author and former LAPD detective Joseph Wambaugh is a candidate for Houston chief of police — even though he didn't apply for the job.

The author of *The Blue Knight*, *The Onion Field*, *The Choir Boys*, and *The New Centurions* is among 11 current or former officers being considered by Mayor Kathy Whitmire for the job.

Said Wambaugh: "I've been so bored lately, I'm ready for anything. Therefore, I enthusiastically accept. Have gun, will travel."

Some of the candidates applied for the post and some were recommended by various persons knowledgeable in the law-enforcement

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field. The mayor's office declined to say who recommended Wambaugh.

## SWAPO FREEDOM ...

SWAPO, the Southern African "Freedom Fighters" who are trying to take over South West Africa, which they call Namibia, have furnished one more illustration of how such organizations operate.

SWAPO guerrillas, armed with AK-47s, raided a small settlement in South West Africa near the Angolan border, ordered the inhabitants to stand against a wall and then shot them down.

Eight were killed and two wounded.

The SWAPO guerrillas then ran back to their haven in Angola. ☒

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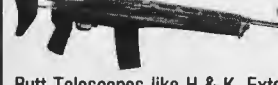


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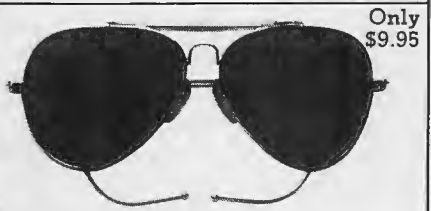
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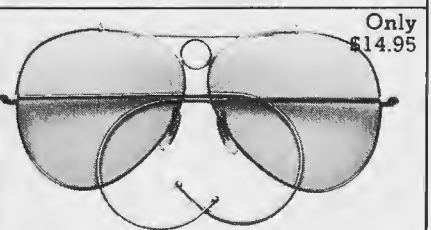
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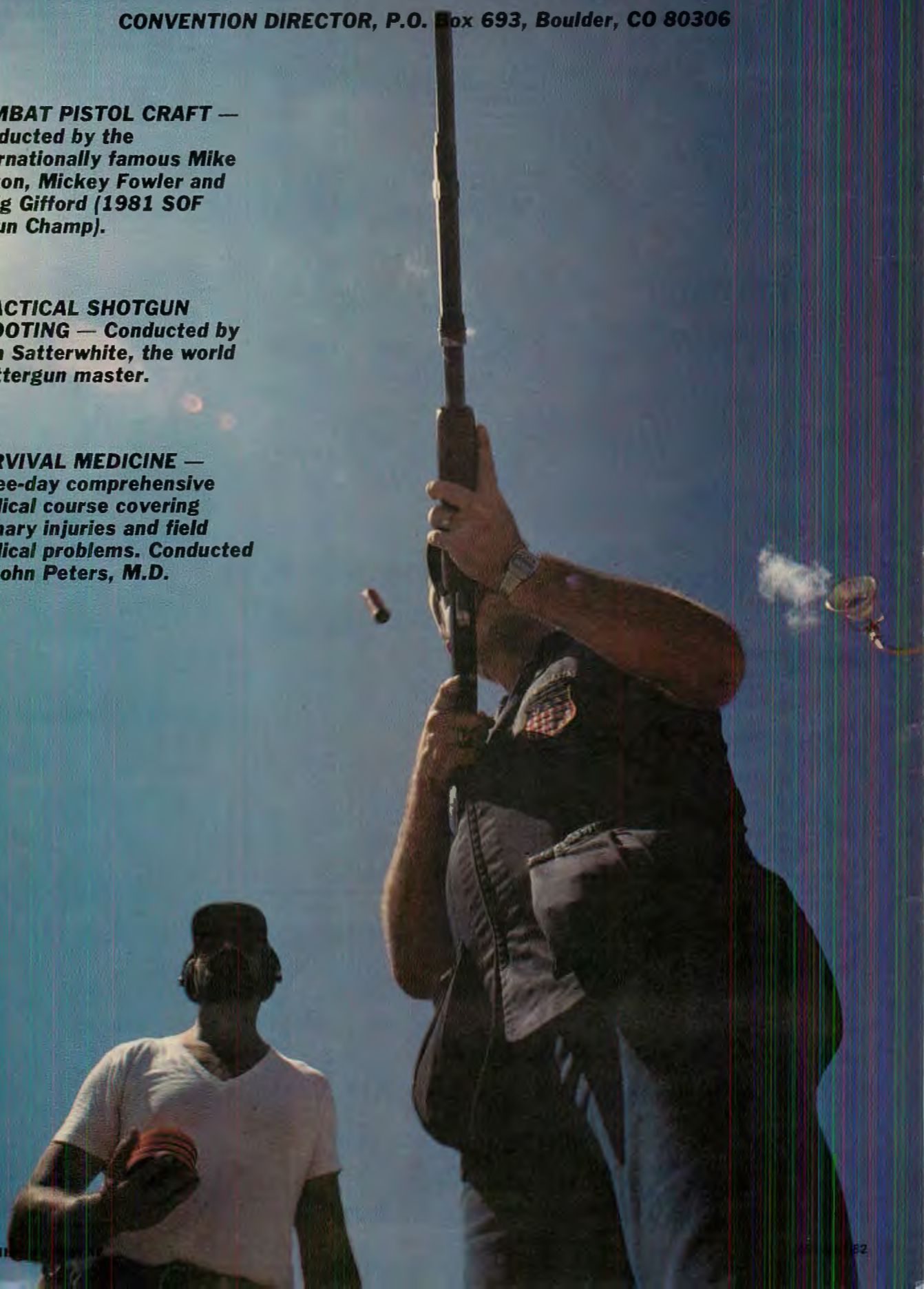


# PRE-CONVENTION COURSES

**SOF will offer the following pre-convention courses in October. If you want to attend these first-class courses write for further details to:**

**CONVENTION DIRECTOR, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306**

- **COMBAT PISTOL CRAFT** — Conducted by the internationally famous **Mike Dalton, Mickey Fowler and Craig Gifford (1981 SOF 3-Gun Champ)**.
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# SOLDIER OF FORTUNE THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

12 - 17 October 1982 \*  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dear Fellow Adventurers,

I want to personally invite every one of our readers to our Third Annual Convention in Charlotte, N. C. The convention is being held in conjunction with the Third Annual Three Gun International Practical Shooting Match — a shotgun, pistol and assault rifle shoot to choose the top all-around combat marksman in the world; 150 expert shooters will compete, by invitation only, for \$5,000 first-prize money and over \$50,000 in cash, guns and gear. (Competitive shooters write for an application.)

The theme of this year's convention will be "SOF Salutes Project Freedom," with a very special seminar conducted concerning our POWs and MIAs still held in Southeast Asia. The Colonel "Bull" Simon Memorial Award will be presented in their interest.

We are also going to have a special seminar this year entitled "Man Against Tank" taught by one of America's best small-unit tacticians, Capt. Larry Dring. More information on classes and seminars will be forthcoming in our next issue.

The 1st Airborne will conduct a Jump School beginning on Wednesday, 13 October. All interested candidates may apply.

Due to the tremendous response we received at last year's exhibition, we decided to expand our 1982 exhibition to 400 tables. The 1982 SOF Gun Show and Exhibition will begin Thursday 14 October and run through Sunday 17 October. (See reservation form on p. 88.)

Weapons demonstrations and competition shoot-offs will occur on Friday. The 1982 SOF Convention has a great line-up, and there will be more to come!

All of you who wish to attend must arrange your own accommodations. The HQ-Hotel will be the Holiday Inn — Woodlawn located at I-77 and Woodlawn in Charlotte. Reservations may be made by contacting Pam Stoltenborg at (704) 525-5007. Be sure to identify yourself as an SOF Convention delegate. Room rates are: Single — \$45.76 per day and Double — \$50.96 per day, taxes included. Rooms are also available at the Howard Johnsons — Woodlawn at \$38.48 per day Single and \$44.72 per day Double. Contact Linda Geer at (704) 525-6220. Days Inn — Woodlawn also has rooms at \$34.20 Single and \$39.40 Double — Contact Shirley Brown at (704) 527-1620. Howard Johnsons is located across the street and Days Inn is directly adjacent to the Holiday Inn, so you won't miss a thing.

(ROOM CANCELLATIONS: No refunds will be given without 72 hours notice, prior to date of arrival and by 1800 hrs.)

This will be one convention you will never forget. See you there!

DEATH TO TYRANTS,

Robert K. Brown  
Editor/Publisher

## \* TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Pre-convention courses (Combat Pistol Craft; Practical Shotgun Shooting; Survival Medicine — these courses will be held only if 20 or more students sign up) — 9-11 October.

Three-Gun Match . . . . 12-15 October

Jump School . . . . . 13-15 October

Main Convention . . . . 14-16 October

Exhibition Hall . . . . . 14-17 October

Look for further convention information in the next issue of SOF.

### 1982 SOF CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM \*

Mail To: CONVENTION DIRECTOR — P.O. Box 693 — Boulder, CO 80306

Yes, I'm coming to the 3rd Annual SOF Convention!

- Find my Certified Check, Cashiers Check or Money Order enclosed for \$100 . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- 1st Airborne Jump School fee \$100 . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_
- 1st Airborne Jump Fee (qualified jumpers only) \*\* \$50 . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_  
(All Jumpers must pay \$100 convention fee)
- Competitive Shooters write for application.
- Exhibitors see form to left.
- Extra Beer-Bust and Banquet Tickets \$25 each . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

\* Pre-registration ends 15 September; after that the fee is \$125.00.

\*\* A qualified parachutist is defined as any person with a current Jump Log Book showing a jump within the past 90 days. 1st Airborne reserves the right to deny anyone access to their program.

(See other side to complete form)

# **THE SOLDIER OF FORTUNE THIRD ANNUAL GUNSHOW & EXHIBITION**

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## **CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS**

- **SOF SALUTES PROJECT FREEDOM—POW/MIA** Action Update with special report by SOF Editor/Publisher Col. Robert K. Brown.
- **SOF 3-GUN INTERNATIONAL PRACTICAL SHOOTING MATCH** to determine the world's best combat shooter.
- **CHARLOTTE CIVIC CENTER** — 400-Table Gun, Militaria, Police, Survival and Knife Show.
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- **CENTRAL AMERICA UPDATE** by Alta Mirano and Bob Caldwell.
- **VIETNAM VETS: Who represents who** by Al Santoli.
- **YELLOW RAIN** — an SOF exclusive on the communist use of poisonous gas.
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- **MAN AGAINST TANK** — An SOF special seminar by Captain Larry Dring on the ways and means to smash Soviet armor.
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## FLAK

Continued from page 10

## NO THANKS FOR THE MEMORY ...

Sirs:

It was with great pleasure that I read my first issue of SOF one year ago, and at that time I thought that this publication would probably adhere to ideologies that would exemplify something along the line of tact, if not outright taste.

Editorially, I find SOF to be of the highest caliber, and I must commend you for timely and relevant reporting on the situation in Lebanon, Rhodesia, Thailand, etc.

Therefore, it is with rather solemn dissatisfaction that I have looked upon the presence of advertisements purveying memorabilia of the Nazi era. As far as I am concerned, these ads amount to commercials for the communist effort. If I had my way, every memory related to communism would be collected and summarily incinerated.

I hope, sincerely, that you do not consider me a crackpot, but I feel as if my silence with regard to this type of merchandise would amount to passive or tacit approval of it, and if only for the record, I would just as soon let you know my opinion.

Nevertheless, I remain grateful to your effort in creating a very worthwhile, informative publication.

Respectfully,  
John Angel  
Atlanta, Georgia

To sell WWII hats, badges, etc., is not to support Nazis. We also run ads for captured NVA and Japanese gear. — The Eds

## WOODCHUCK WINDAGE ...

Sirs:

Normally I do not write letters to an editor, even when I probably should, but this time I feel I must. Your article, "Woodchuck Wars" by Maj. Jack Chase, (SOF, June '82), contained some inaccurate information. Also, your coverage of the assault rifle match at the Soldier of Fortune convention in the April '82 issue repeated one of these inaccuracies.

First, I completely disagree with Maj. Chase that the kinetic energy of the 7.62mm round is much greater than the 5.56mm round.

Maj. Chase and the author of your assault-rifle-match coverage stated that the ballistic drop of a 5.56mm is greater than the drop of a 7.62mm bullet. Out to ranges of 500 yards, this is simply not true! Even though the 5.56mm is much lighter than the 7.62mm, its higher velocity and .211 coefficient make for a fairly flat trajectory. The ballistic coefficient for 7.62mm is about .453. If one takes the

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time to look in the third edition of *Hor- nady's Reloading Handbook*, pp. 426 (5.56mm) and 492 (7.62mm) will tell the story. By using velocity values of 3300 and 3200 for 5.56mm and 2800 and 2700 for 7.62mm and comparing them respectively, one will note that the trajectories are almost identical. The 5.56mm trajectory is about 10-percent superior out to 500 yards. The 7.62mm is superior past 500 yards, by a wide margin. Maj. Chase fails to state what ranges he is referring to. The statement made concerning inferior 5.56mm trajectory in your assault-rifle- match article is incorrect, considering the maximum range referred to was only 300 yards. However, I definitely agree that the 5.56mm is more susceptible to crosswinds than the 7.62mm, but only by a factor of a maximum 20 percent greater wind drift.

Maj. Chase infers that the 5.56mm would be inadequate on a European or Middle East battlefield, that 5.56mm is appropriate only for close-range jungle fighting. In your March '82 interview with Israel Galili, Galili states, and I quote, "The Israeli army does not want an assault rifle in 7.62mm NATO caliber . . . calibers like the 5.56mm NATO offer many very real advantages over the 7.62mm NATO round, they are so much lighter in weight, and every bit as effective at normal combat ranges. We know this from actual experience against our enemies." Finally when asked about the status of the Uzi, we are told it is being replaced: "With the stock folded, the Galil SAR is no larger than the Uzi and is effective out to ranges of 500 meters. . . ." The Galil SAR has a very short barrel. Also, I have heard that the South African army is switching over to 5.56mm. The Israeli army and the South Africans have more *winning* experience than any other combat army in the world during the past 30 years and they always *win* because they have no other choice!

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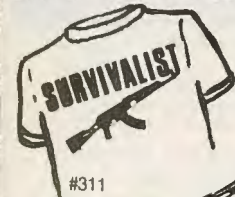
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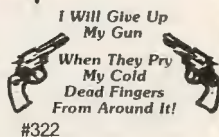
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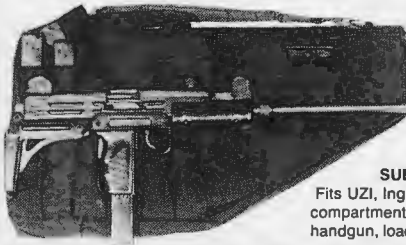


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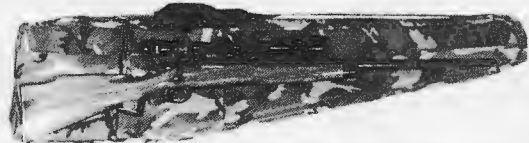
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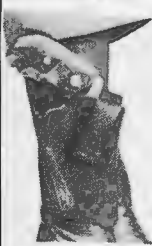
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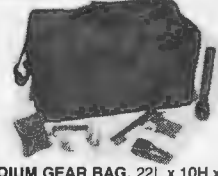
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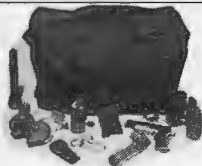
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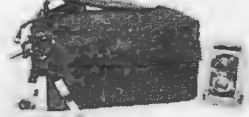
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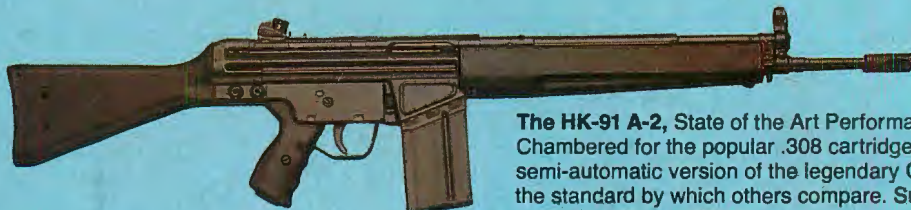
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## REDEMPTION CERTIFICATE

This coupon entitles you to a rebate of \$50.00 from Heckler and Koch, Inc. If you purchase a HK-91 or HK-93 between May 1, 1982 and August 31, 1982 at retail. In order to receive your check from Heckler and Koch, Inc. simply cut out this certificate and return it to H&K with the completed warranty registration card and proof of purchase. (Copy of sales receipt acceptable). Your check will be mailed in approximately 4 weeks from receipt of the required documents. All certificates must be received by H&K Inc. prior to September 15, 1982.

**HECKLER and KOCH, INC.**

SUITE 218, DEPARTMENT 406, 933 N. KENMORE STREET  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201 703/243-3700



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ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22201  
703/243-3700

I would like to learn more about the New Generation H&K Sporting Arms. Please send me your full color 24 page catalog and retail price list. I've enclosed \$3.00 for postage and handling.

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